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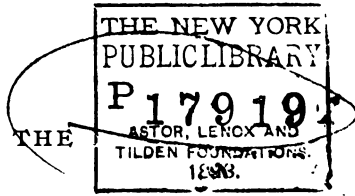
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Feb. 25, 1900

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NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MAY 31ST 1886



OMAHA:

PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS,

1505-1507 DOUGLAS ST.

d. w.

F. A. MANGER. PRINTER.
1402 Farnam St., OMAHA.

NOV 21 1951
2.45 PM
VIA AIR

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT,
JAMES W. SAVAGE.

VICE-PRESIDENT,
P. L. PERINE

SECRETARY,
LEWIS S. REED.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Term expires July 1st, 1886.

WILLIAM WALLACE.
P. L. PERINE.
LEWIS S. REED.

Term expires July 1st, 1887.

JAMES W. SAVAGE.
JOHN T. BELL.
HOMER P. LEWIS.

Term expires July 1st, 1888.

ELIZABETH E. POPPLETON.
JULES P. METZGER.
ELIJAH DUNN.

COMMITTEES.

Executive — Directors PERINE, WALLACE, BELL and DUNN.

Book — Directors LEWIS, METZGER and POPPLETON.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

LIBRARIAN,

MISS JESSIE ALLAN.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS,

MISS MAGGIE O'BRIEN.

MISS BLANCHE ALLAN.

ROY VAN
JURY
VASEL

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OMAHA :

The seventh section of the Act providing for the establishment and maintenance of free public libraries and reading rooms by cities and towns, provides that "the library board shall on or before the second Monday of June, in each year, make a report to the city or town council of the condition of their trust on the first day of June in such year, showing all moneys received or expended; the number of books and periodicals on hand; newspapers and current literature subscribed for or donated to the reading room department; the number of books and periodicals ordered by purchase, gift, or obtained during the year, and the number lost or missing; the number of visitors attending; the number of and character of books loaned or issued, with such statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest, or as the city or town council may require; which report shall be verified by the proper officers of said board."

Appended hereto will be found a full tabulated statement containing all the specific information called for by the foregoing act. In compliance, however, with the concluding clauses of the section, it has been thought proper, in view of our rapidly increasing population, and the consequent number of residents who are unacquainted with the history, growth or present capacity of our library, to place before our citizens somewhat more at length and in a more accessible form, information not hitherto readily attainable.

ROOMS.

The library has for thirteen months past occupied the second and third stories of the building 1505 and 1507 Douglas Street. The crowded state of the rooms occupied by it before its removal to the present building rendered some change a necessity; but, as has been the case with each previous increase of accommodations, it is found that the additional space afforded is almost immediately strained to its utmost capacity. The book-shelves, the reading and reference tables are now at certain hours of the day inconveniently crowded; and if we judge by past experience we can assume that double our present accommodations would in a short period double the number of our patrons.

It is understood that the present plans for a city hall include provisions for a library. While rooms in this building, if well arranged and sufficiently commodious and accessible, will perhaps for a season afford relief, it is evident that in a very few years, if Omaha is to maintain in literary and scientific matters the prominence she is easily assuming in commercial and educational affairs, a separate building will be needed for our books and other reading matter. How such a structure is to be provided — whether by the action of your body, by subscriptions from her citizens, or the munificence of some wealthy individual, the future only can show. It is certain, however, that all efforts hitherto to obtain private aid for such a purpose have been thwarted by the feeling that the tax granted by your body is amply sufficient for all the wants of such an institution. How erroneous such an opinion is, a glance at the subjoined reports will show.

BOOKS.

The whole number of volumes in the library on the first instant was 14,237. This number, however, includes 720 books which, having in the last and previous years been

worn out by handling, and condemned, are not now among those lent. For a detailed statement of net increase, books lost and stolen, number lent, attendance at reading room, and kindred subjects, attention is invited to the elaborate report of the librarian, hereto annexed. The number above given enables our city to compare favorably, so far as we are enabled to judge from the reports of similar institutions with other cities of the same population. But there are many reasons why a city like Omaha should possess a collection of books much greater than a place of 80,000 inhabitants in the East. There are but few private libraries of any extent. We have an unusual proportion of young men, recent comers, unmarried and without relatives. To a great majority of these a well selected library is a boon which none can appreciate but those who have had similar experiences.

Those interested in libraries throughout the country have frequently been disheartened by observing how great a proportion of the volumes borrowed are from the department of fiction. The report of our librarian shows that about eighty per cent of the books taken out last year were novels. But the writers of this report can assure your honorable body that the book committee of the board have taken special care that the fiction supplied shall be such as shall not only not demoralize any class of readers, but shall, if possible, tend to elevate and improve them. It is believed to be true that boys should read a good class of novels rather than that they should not read at all, and a taste for reading created in this way will not probably be satisfied long with the mental food such books provide. It may be noted, also, that the percentage given above is probably to some extent misleading. Many readers resort to the city library for their fiction only,

when their histories, books of science and poetry, religious and biographical works, are purchased and become part of their private collections.

SALARIES.

This subject would not be alluded to were it not that during the past year one or two gentlemen, not now members of your body, have seen fit to characterize the expenditure of this board for the services of its librarians as wasteful and inexcusable extravagance. Standing behind a railing, it was said, and handing out books to those who inquire for them, are occupations for which suitable persons could easily be obtained at wages of a dollar a day. It is believed that these and similar criticisms will never be made by those who have at all examined the workings of our library system. As well might it be claimed that meeting one or two evenings a week, and voting on a few ordinances or resolutions, would be amply paid by the same amount. The members of a city council are selected because they are men of experience, integrity and sound common sense. These are qualifications which must be paid for. The duties of a competent librarian are by no means confined to the distribution of books. He must be able to tell without reference to the catalogues what books are in the library; what books treat of any given subject, and what course of reading would be appropriate to a person seeking such information. He must be a shrewd and careful buyer. He must have moral force enough to preserve order and quiet among a rough and lawless set of boys whom it is above all things desirable to attract to our reading room. He must be thoroughly acquainted with current periodical literature. He must be a competent cataloguer. He must be affable, patient and good tempered. And, above all, his honesty and integrity must be absolutely

spotless. When all these things are considered, and when, moreover, it is understood that the expense of distributing the books in the Omaha Public Library is less than that of any city of its size which has come under the notice of this board, we feel sure that the charges alluded to will hardly be regarded as sustained.

OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

The library was established in 1877, and at first found ample accommodations in two small rooms, about twenty feet square, in the upper story of a wooden store on Dodge Street. Without any large donations, such as have filled the shelves of those magnificent structures which are the boast of eastern cities; without any special public interest; without any sudden change, it has steadily grown in importance, size, and as we confidently affirm in usefulness. Libraries are not now the resort of the rich, the unoccupied, or the studious only. They supply a popular demand; they co-operate with and supplement our public schools; they guide and direct the tastes of boys and girls, which, if left uninfluenced, might lead to countless mischiefs and dangers. "The problem of self-government," says a prominent clergyman, "at which this nation is working, can not be wrought out to a successful conclusion unless the people possess the requisite intelligence, and the free library is a mighty help in that direction."

We believe that our own library is already a proof of this assertion. The fact that more than eighty thousand volumes were taken out last year; that the reading room is never empty, and often over-crowded; that more than thirty-five thousand visits have been made to the reference tables since our last report; that there is a perceptibly increased demand, especially among railway employees, for works on mechanics and the applied arts,—all these lead

to the conclusion that the money spent on this institution benefits a larger number and does more good than any other portion of the public funds.

Within the last few weeks printed forms of requests for the purchase of books not found on our shelves have been provided, and citizens wishing for works of general interest and value which have not yet been procured, are invited to fill out these blanks and deposit them in the box conveniently placed for that purpose.

The suggestion made in our last report of a museum of Indian, Aztec and pre-historic curiosities as an instructive and important adjunct to our library, met with many prompt and gratifying responses, but want of space has prevented such an increase in this branch as is desirable.

To supply our rapidly increasing population with reading matter we need more room, more help in the library, a card catalogue, more books, more pamphlets, more newspapers and more money. The councils of former years have uniformly, as official bodies, evinced a high appreciation of the importance of this factor in a good city government. We presume that this interest will not now be withheld. But we ask, in addition, personal visits from its members, criticisms upon our work and upon the conduct of our business, and that familiarity with our rooms which we believe can not fail to lead to renewed interest in our success.

The same invitation is extended to business and wealthy men generally. When some rich and generous citizen who has seen his bit of prairie growing into a fabulous value and covered with temples of commerce, shall realize that he can pay the debt he owes to Omaha in no better way than by erecting a building for her books, the real work and usefulness of the library will commence.

JAMES W. SAVAGE,
President of the Board of Directors.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

HON. JAMES W. SAVAGE,
PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD,

SIR:

The following statement shows the amount of money expended for the maintenance of the Public Library and Reading Rooms for the year ending June 1st, 1886:

BOOK ACCOUNT.

For Books Purchased	\$2,974.56
“ Binding and Re-binding	422.40
“ Periodicals	348.60
“ Insurance	60.00
	<hr/> \$3,805.56

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

For Rent	\$1,299.96
“ Gas	273.12
“ Furniture and Improvements	294.77
	<hr/> \$1,867.85

SALARY ACCOUNT.

Librarian and Assistants	\$1,959.76
Janitor	182.50
	<hr/> \$2,142.26

SUPPLY ACCOUNT.

Printing, Stationery and Postage	\$ 218.72
Ice, Matches, Brooms, etc	20.65
Cartage and Miscellaneous	18.62
	<hr/> \$ 257.99
	<hr/> \$8,073.66

Very respectfully,

LEWIS S. REED,

OMAHA, June 14th, 1886.

Secretary.

EXPENDITURES OF FORMER YEARS.

	BOOK ACCOUNT.	BUILDING ACCOUNT.	SALARY ACCOUNT.	SUPPLY ACCOUNT.	TOTAL.
For fractional year ending June 1st, 1878..	\$ 186.93	\$ 627.48	\$ 375.25	\$ 54.80	\$1244.46
For year ending June 1st, 1879	1342.95	467.95	563.15	94.90	2468.95
“ “ 1880	1283.98	446.77	676.00	137.45	2544.20
“ “ 1881	1047.28	812.56	755.00	84.00	2698.84
“ “ 1882	1432.38	775.46	920.00	127.55	3255.39
“ “ 1883	1903.83	860.81	1080.00	121.80	3966.44
“ “ 1884	2041.02	1446.83	1260.00	125.65	4873.50
“ “ 1885	4495.22	1586.36	1789.20	507.85	8378.63
“ “ 1886	3805.56	1867.85	2142.26	257.99	8073.66

For the past four years the tax for Library purposes has been three-fourths of one mill on the valuation of all taxable property in the City.

The Library Fund on tax list of 1885 amounted to \$7396.84.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, June 7, 1886.

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY:

MISS POPPLETON AND GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to herewith submit the Ninth Annual Report, giving the work and statistics of the Library for the official year ending May 31st, 1886.

BOOKS.

The present number of volumes in the Library is 14,237. The number entered in the accession catalogue during the year was 1,898, of which 1,604 were additions by purchase, 42 by binding periodicals, and 252 by donation. Of the latter, 240 were gifts of the Public Departments at Washington, while 12 volumes and 104 magazines were given by private parties.

Among the donations to the Library, 146 volumes of the Congressional Globe and Record were especially welcome, as they nearly complete our set from the first to the forty-eighth Congress.

The number of volumes worn out and condemned was 364 — 130 being English Prose Fiction, 164 Juvenile, 1 Biography, 1 History and 6 Serials.

Lost and stolen books, 6.

BOOK-BORROWERS.

The number of "First Series" or new registrations was 1,643; "Second Series" or renewals, 382, making a total of 2,025 cards issued, an increase over the preceding year of 25 per cent.

CIRCULATION.

The circulating department has been open for the delivery of books 307 days during the year, and 80,090 volumes have been taken for home use. The daily average was 261, which is an increase of 28 per cent over the circulation of the preceding year, when it was 60,907, with a daily average of 204.

The largest number of books issued on one day was 595, March 6th, 1886, and the smallest number issued on one day was 65, January 8th, 1886. March is the month during which the most books are read, with February next in order. From this time the circulation decreases until it reaches its minimum in June.

The circulation and daily average, month by month, is shown by the following table:

MONTH.	1885-86.			1884-85.		
	DAYS.	CIRCULATION.	AVERAGE.	DAYS.	CIRCULATION.	AVERAGE.
June	26	4,976	191	25	3,462	138
July	26	5,758	221	26	3,946	152
August	26	6,127	235	26	4,576	176
September ..	26	5,396	208	26	3,586	138
October	27	6,799	259	27	4,764	176
November ..	24	6,457	265	24	4,669	194
December ..	26	6,243	240	26	4,933	189
January	25	7,390	296	26	6,296	242
February ...	23	7,865	342	24	6,697	279
March	27	8,082	300	26	7,069	272
April	26	7,650	294	24	6,431	268
May	25	7,347	294	19	4,478	235

The following table shows the percentage for the past year, and for the three previous years, in the seven classes of books of which a record has been kept:

	1885-85.	1884-85.	1883-84.	1882-83.
Poetry and Drama	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.2
Science	2.2	2.5	2.1	2.2
Essays and Miscellanies	5.7	7.1	4.7	4.9
History	4.2	4.3	3.5	3.1
Voyages and Travels	3.4	3.3	3.2	2.9
Biography	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.1
Prose Fiction, Juveniles	80.1	79.5	83.2	83.6

RECEIPTS.

The receipts for the year were — from fines \$461.20, from the sale of Finding Lists \$57.15, and from subscriptions \$8.00; a total of \$526.35. This is an increase of 20 per cent over the preceding year.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

More commodious rooms have benefitted no department more than the Reference. Increased shelf room and the accessibility of the books have resulted not only in an increase in the number of visitors, but in the length of time spent by each at the tables. The estimated daily average attendance for eight months in the year was 135; for the summer months 50, making a total of 35,255. The great want is for more of the periodicals to which reference is made in Poole's Index to Periodical Literature.

READING ROOM.

The Reading Room continues to maintain its popularity. It was open to the public 359 days during the year, with an average daily attendance of 275, or a total attendance of 98,725.

The reading room is supplied with 93 serials, showing a gain of 79 per cent. Eighty are purchased and 13 donated. Fifty-four are periodicals and 39 are newspapers. Of the latter, 17 are dailies, 20 weeklies, and 2 semi-weeklies.

The periodicals comprise 25 monthlies, 26 weeklies, 1 fortnightly, and 2 bi-monthlies.

RECAPITULATION.

Number of visitors to the book department.....	80,090
Number of visitors to the reference department..	35,255
Number of visitors to the reading room	98,725
	<hr/> 214,070

Although the above figures are very satisfactory, showing as they do the growth of the Library, we feel that the circulation should have been higher both in quantity and quality.

The low state of the temperature in the rooms during January and February made even a short stay uncomfortable, and precluded the idea of any research. As a result there was a noticeable decrease in the number of visitors, and a falling off in all classes of circulation except Fiction and Juveniles.

One great cause of the advance made in the past year is the change to more commodious, accessible and pleasant rooms. The central location enables many business men to take advantage of the Reading Room, and the easy access causes many to become active borrowers, who in the old rooms were unable even to enter the Library.

It is hoped that the present year will witness the beginning of the card catalogue, the publication of a Supplementary Finding List, and the introduction of a more minute classification.

With sincere thanks to the Directors for their interest and co-operation, I respectfully submit this report.

JESSIE ALLAN,
Librarian.

SERIALS IN THE READING ROOM.

DAILIES.

Omaha Bee	(2 copies).	Omaha Herald (2 copies).
Omaha Republican	(2 copies).	Omaha World (2 copies).
Boston Advertiser.		Chicago Inter-Ocean.
Chicago Times.		Chicago Tribune.
Cincinnati Enquirer.		New York Graphic.
New York Sun		New York World.
Philadelphia Times.		St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

SEMI-WEEKLIES.

New York Tribune.	Watchman.
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WEEKLIES.

American Architect.	American Machinist.
Army and Navy Journal.	Atlanta Constitution.
Central Christian Advocate.	Chicago Express.
Christian Hour.	Christian Register.
Commercial Record.	Critic.
Die Gartenlaube.	Economist.
Engineer.	Forest and Stream.
Frank Leslie's Illus. Weekly.	Harper's Bazar.
Harper's Weekly.	Harper's Young People.
John Swinton's Paper.	Kansas City Sun and Globe.
Knights of Labor.	Labor Enquirer.
Law and Order.	Life.
Literary World.	Littell's Living Age.
London Architect.	London Graphic.
London Times.	Madison (Neb.) Chronicle.
Nation.	Nat'l City Record (San Diego).
Nature.	Nebraska Watchman.
New Orleans Times-Democrat.	Omaha Excelsior.

(SERIALS IN THE READING ROOM.)—WEEKLIES.

Patent Office Gazette.	Saturday Review.
Science.	Scientific American.
Scientific Amer'n Supplement.	Ueber Land und Meer.
Washington Star.	Western Newspaper Union.
Woman's Tribune.	Youth's Companion.

FORTNIGHTLY.

Revue des deux Mondes.

MONTHLIES.

American Builder and Woodworker.	American History, Magazine of Blackwood's
Atlantic.	Edinburgh Magazine.
Cassell's Magazine of Art.	Century (2 copies).
Edinburgh Review.	English Illustrated Magazine.
Fortnightly Review.	Harper's Magazine (2 copies).
Library Journal.	Library Magazine.
Lippincott's Magazine.	Literary News.
Mind.	Nineteenth Century.
North American Review.	Outing.
Popular Science Monthly.	Saint Nicholas.
Sunday Magazine.	Unitarian Review.
Van Nostrand's Engineering Magazine.	

BI-MONTHLY.

Education.	Princeton Review.
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State of Nebraska, }
DOUGLAS COUNTY. } ss.

*James W. Savage, President, and Lewis S. Reed, Secretary,
of the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Library, being
severally duly sworn, say, and each for himself says, that the
foregoing report is true, as he verily believes.*

JAMES W. SAVAGE.

LEWIS S. REED.

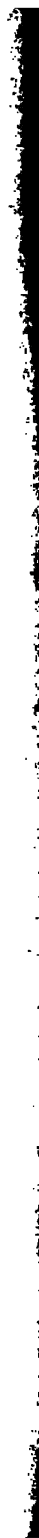
*Signed in my presence, and sworn to before me
this 14th day of June, 1886.*

BYRON REED,

Notary Public.











THE
TENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

Omaha Public Library

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MAY 31ST 1887



OMAHA:
PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS,
1505-1507 DOUGLAS ST.

F. A. MANGER, PRINTER.
1492 FLENNUM ST
OMAHA.

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT,
JAMES W. SAVAGE.

VICE-PRESIDENT,
WILLIAM WALLACE.

SECRETARY,
LEWIS S. REED.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Term expires July 1st, 1887.

JAMES W. SAVAGE.

JOHN T. BELL.

CLAIRE RUSTIN.

Term expires July 1st, 1888.

ELIZABETH E. POPPLETON.

JOHN WILSON.

ELIJAH DUNN.

Term expires July 1st, 1889.

WILLIAM WALLACE.

P. L. PERINE.

LEWIS S. REED.

COMMITTEES.

Executive—Directors WALLACE, BELL, DUNN and PERINE.

Book—Directors POPPLETON, WILSON and RUSTIN.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

LIBRARIAN,
MISS JESSIE ALLAN.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS.
MISS MAGGIE O'BRIEN.
MISS BLANCHE ALLAN.

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TENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

Pursuant to the Act of the Legislature of this State providing for the establishment and maintenance of free Public Libraries and Reading Rooms by cities and towns, the undersigned, on behalf of the library board, has the honor to submit the following report of the condition of the trust on the 1st day of June, 1887.

Detailed reports of the secretary of our board and the librarian will show in compact form our expenditures for the past year, the increase of the library, its circulation and various other statistics which it is believed will be of interest to those who have watched the progress of the institution in past years.

ROOMS.

The library is still confined to the quarters which it has occupied for the past two years. These rooms are centrally located, and are procured at a reasonable rent. But hardly anything else can be said in their favor. They are so inefficiently warmed as to be useless for some two or three of the coldest weeks of the year. The books have so encroached upon the space heretofore given to students and readers that it has become utterly inadequate for the wants of such an institution as ours. It is at times inconveniently crowded; and the board is of the opinion that if the library is to maintain any fair place among kindred establishments, a detached building, fire-proof, large

enough to accommodate five or six times our present number of books, with provisions for rooms to be devoted to other purposes, such as are hereinafter suggested, and capable of indefinite expansion, will be absolutely necessary.

Unless such accommodations are furnished, the library has almost reached the limit of its usefulness.

The board has for a long time believed that it would be an excellent thing for the city to designate Jefferson Square as the site for a library building. Various projects have from time to time been suggested as to the use to be made of the square, and it seems now to appear that the council desires it to remain substantially in its present condition like a small park. To set apart sufficient ground in the center, and erect a neat fire-proof structure for the use of the library would be likely to add to, rather than detract from the beauty of the premises; and the open space about the building would be almost as useful and available for park purposes as the whole square now is.


It may be that owners of lots opposite to and fronting on Jefferson Square would have a right to oppose the erection of any building thereon, but it is probable, in order to encourage so desirable an improvement, that all objections would be waived.

As a business proposition the city can well afford to expend the money that a building would cost and save the rent now paid for library rooms.

MUSEUM.

The want of suitable apartments has prevented any further steps toward the formation of a museum of curiosities pertaining to early Western history and pre-historic ages. The responses to our suggestions looking toward such an enterprise in our last report were so general and favorable that we believe but little difficulty would be experienced in establishing a highly useful and instructive collection of memorials of the past, were it possible for us to provide suitable receptacles for them. At present, however, we should find it difficult to store the contributions which have been promised, and impossible so to display them as to make them either instructive or attractive. Such a museum, with sufficient space, could now be easily collected. But every year renders the procurement of weapons, clothing and articles illustrative of Indian life and manners more and more difficult. In another generation it will be impossible to secure many things which now would be readily given to us if we would receive and care for them. Posterity can fairly hold us responsible if we neglect to hand down the means of exhibiting phases of our history now fast passing into oblivion.

The population of our city has largely increased since our last report. Its wealth has more than doubled in the same time. The accommodations for our books remain precisely the same as they were one year ago. We believe that the time has come when it is incumbent upon us to recognize the fact that



we have emerged from the condition of a village to that of a city, and should provide accordingly for the wants of our readers and students.

ART COLLECTIONS.

It would not be difficult either, with increased room-space, to provide for frequent exhibitions of such works of art as could be entrusted to the library by private owners, or given to it by munificent donors, like those who have recently enriched the galleries of several of our Eastern cities. The importance of such exhibitions can hardly be over-rated. The formation of a correct taste in one domain of art influences all other departments of its realm. The effect of a thoroughly good gallery of paintings and statuary would soon appear in more elaborate dwellings, finer public buildings, and improved styles of architecture throughout our city. Increased beauty would give it increased attractiveness, and that in turn would add to our population and our wealth.

We earnestly recommend, therefore, that early steps be taken to provide a building for the uses of such an institution as we have suggested, which shall combine the advantages of a library, reading room, museum and picture gallery.

CONTROL OF EXPENDITURES.

The statute of our state relative to libraries provides that the directors "shall have exclusive control of expenditures of all monies collected or donated to the credit of the library fund;" and also that

such fund "shall be drawn upon by the proper officers, upon the authenticated vouchers of the library board." In view of these provisions, several members of the city council of last year desired that warrants upon the fund should be drawn directly by the officers of the library, and objected to being held responsible for such drafts, where they had no direct supervision over the expenditures. When a change was suggested, however, it was found that the city ordinances required that "all funds appropriated, taxes collected, or monies received from any source, for the support and maintenance of said library and reading room, shall be received and kept by the city treasurer of said city, and shall be paid out by him only, upon warrants drawn by the city council." To avoid any apparent conflict between the statute and the ordinance, and also to obviate the objection which some members of the council may have to the performance of the mere ministerial duty of drawing warrants on the library fund, certain amendments to Chapter 25 of the Compiled Ordinances of the City of Omaha have been prepared and offered for your approval. It will however, we trust, be understood that the board of directors does not seek to enlarge its powers or add to its responsibilities; and is not anxious for the passage of such amendments unless your honorable body should itself desire it.

BOOKS.

The report of the librarian, which is appended hereto, will be found to present in compact form all

the statistics and information called for by the legislature relative to books, periodicals and visitors. The board believes that an examination of it will show a gratifying increase, not only in the number, but in the character of the volumes purchased and perused during the past year. Of course, fiction still easily predominates over all other classes, but as the resources of the library become known, there is a regularly increasing call for the solidier works in all departments of knowledge.

CATALOGUES.

One great difficulty experienced by all librarians has been to keep their stores properly exposed to popular examination. Hardly is a catalogue printed before purchases and other changes render it almost valueless. To meet this obstacle the card-catalogue was suggested, the primary idea of which is to have the titles printed or written on cards suitable, and systematically arranged so that any accessions can be immediately noted. Mr. Charles Evans was employed by us a few months ago to prepare such a catalogue and put it in working order. His description of the practical operation and advantages of such a method of cataloguing can not fail to be of interest to all who are concerned in books, and is therefore quoted here.

“A good card-catalogue of a library is of the same importance as a good index to a book.

Its aim and purpose is to be an index of the contents of the library. In its use it is a time-saver. It shows at a glance

what the library possesses. It is a necessity for a safe administration of the library to guard against duplication. It answers, as in no other manner can be answered, the oft repeated questions: What books by any particular author are there in the library? Have you a book of a particular title in the library, whose author's name I have forgotten? What books and monographs has the library upon any particular subject? It furnishes a complete and ready reference to every book in the library; and, as it contains the latest accessions to the library, it is a manuscript ready for the printer whenever it is found necessary to issue a printed catalogue.

The library had reached a stage in its development which necessitated a change in its arrangement to meet the growth in the modern library administration.

From the exigencies growing out of the manner in which the library was started this was found to be necessary, and an entire re-arrangement of the books in the library was determined upon.

The preparation of the card-catalogue, which the board of directors have long deemed a necessity, seemed to them the fitting time for this work to be done, and the work is now proceeding upon the plan which has been found to be so satisfactory in the public library in Chicago.

The re-arrangement of the library carries with it a new shelf-list catalogue, which is also a brief subject-catalogue; the official card-catalogue for the use of the librarian and the public at the library; and it is proposed to follow these with a printed finding-list, similar to that now in use, which will be for sale at a nominal cost."

OBSERVATIONS.

The directors can not conclude this report without further allusion to the gratifying and regular progress made by the library ever since its beginning. It has steadily grown in public favor, and its officers, we believe we may conscientiously say, have with

equal steadiness sought to add to its popularity and increase its advantages. One result of their labor is shown in the fact that while there are some four thousand public libraries in the country, there are only twenty which surpass or equal its annual circulation. In so satisfactory a showing the directors feel what we trust is a pardonable pride, but they would do violence alike to truth and their own feelings, did they fail to acknowledge that their success is due in a great degree to the intelligent and cordial co-operation of the several councils of this city. In the effort of these bodies to select directors who should represent the varying interests, tastes and classes of our society; in their ready responses to our suggestions and requests; and in the interest they have uniformly shown in the prosperity and growth of the library: they have entitled themselves to the gratitude of all lovers of literature and learning. We trust that this co-operation will not be withheld in the future.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES W. SAVAGE,

President of the Board of Directors.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

HON. JAMES W. SAVAGE,

PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.

SIR :

The following statement shows the amount of money expended for the maintenance of the Public Library and Reading Rooms for the year ending June 1st, 1887 :

BOOK ACCOUNT.

For Books Purchased.....	\$ 3,877.84	
“ Binding and Re-binding.....	265.15	
“ Periodicals	383.38	
“ Insurance	90.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 4,616.37

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

For Rent	\$ 1,299.96	
“ Gas	353.10	
“ Furniture and Improvements.....	353.85	
	<hr/>	\$ 2,006.91

SALARY ACCOUNT.

Librarian and Assistants	\$ 2,021.06	
Janitor	251.00	
Making Card-Catalogue	249.99	
	<hr/>	\$ 2,522.05

SUPPLY ACCOUNT.

Printing, Stationery and Postage.....	\$ 255.25	
Ice, Matches, Brooms, etc.....	26.95	
Cartage and Miscellaneous	71.32	
	<hr/>	\$ 353.52

Total.....\$ 9,498.85

Very respectfully,

LEWIS S. REED,

OMAHA, June 13th, 1887.

Secretary.

EXPENDITURES OF FORMER YEARS.

	BOOK ACCOUNT	BUILDING ACCOUNT	SALARY ACCOUNT	SUPPLY ACCOUNT	TOTAL
For fractional year ending June 1st, 1878..	\$ 186.93	\$ 627.48	\$ 375.25	\$ 54.80	\$ 1244.46
For year ending June 1st, 1879	1342.95	467.95	563.15	94.90	2468.95
" " 1880	1283.98	446.77	676.00	137.45	2544.20
" " 1881	1047.28	812.56	755.00	84.00	2698.84
" " 1882	1432.38	775.46	920.00	127.55	3255.39
" " 1883	1903.83	860.81	1080.00	121.80	3966.44
" " 1884	2041.02	1446.83	1260.00	125.65	4873.50
" " 1885	4495.22	1586.36	1789.20	507.85	8378.63
" " 1886	3805.56	1867.85	2142.26	257.99	8073.66
" " 1887	4616.37	2006.91	2522.05	353.52	9498.85

For the past five years, the tax for Library purposes has been three-fourths of one mill on the valuation of all taxable property in the City.

The Library Fund on tax list of 1885 amounted to \$7396.84; and for 1886 amounted to \$8923.72.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, June 1st, 1887.

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Herewith is respectfully submitted the Tenth Annual Report of the Librarian of the Omaha Public Library, for the year ending May 31st, 1887.

BOOKS.

The present number of entries in the accessions catalogue is 16,850. The number entered during the year was 2,613; of which 2,317 were additions by purchase, 14 by binding periodicals, and 228 were gifts

The accessions have improved in quality as well as quantity, and include many rare and valuable works. Among them may be mentioned three hundred volumes of Shakespeariana.

The number of volumes worn out and condemned was 304 — 163 being English Prose Fiction, 116 Juvenile, 1 Biography, 3 Histories, 11 Serials, 2 Essays, 4 Travels, 1 Theology, 1 Science, 2 Poetry.

Lost and stolen books	7
Duplicate volumes sent to Washington.....	22
Lost books recovered since last report.....	4
Net gain for the year.....	2,254

BOOK-BORROWERS.

The total number of book-borrowers' cards issued from February, 1878, to June 1st, 1887, is 12,118.

These cards are issued for a period of two years, when a new registration is necessary. This regulation was adopted last year, and 3,999 cards have been canceled, leaving at present 8,119 enrolled. The number of registrations during the year was 2,119.

CIRCULATION.

During the year, the circulating department was open for the delivery of books 306 days. The number of books issued for home use was 90,341, a gain of 12.8 per cent. over the preceding year, when it was 80,090. The gain per cent. is much less than that of 1885-6 over its predecessor, but is readily understood when we consider how many of the citizens of Omaha were interested in financial and speculative rather than literary affairs. It is indisputable that during a real estate boom the libraries are somewhat neglected.

The daily average circulation was 295. The largest number of books issued in one day, 671—April 23d, 1887; the smallest, 108—November 16th, 1886.

The average number issued by each person, 30,113.

The circulation and daily average month by month, as compared with the preceding year, is shown by the following table:

MONTH	1886-87			1885-86		
	DAYS	CIRCULATION	AVERAGE	DAYS	CIRCULATION	AVERAGE
June	26	6,206	234	26	4,796	191
July	26	6,998	230	26	5,758	221
August	26	6,843	263	26	6,127	235
September	26	6,676	256	26	5,396	208
October	26	7,508	289	27	6,799	259
November	25	7,417	296	24	6,457	265
December	26	7,350	282	26	6,243	240
January	25	8,360	334	25	7,390	296
February	23	8,349	363	23	7,865	342
March	27	8,719	323	27	8,082	300
April	25	8,148	326	26	7,650	294
May	25	7,767	311	25	7,347	294

The following table shows the percentage for the past year and the three previous years, in the seven classes of books of which a record has been kept:

	1886-87	1885-86	1884-85	1883-84
Poetry and Drama	1.56	1.5	1.2	1.5
Science and Theology	3.22	2.2	2.5	2.1
Art, Essays and Miscellanies	5.68	5.7	7.1	4.7
History	4.28	4.2	4.3	3.5
Voyages and Travels	3.67	3.4	3.3	3.2
Biography	2.55	2.2	2.1	1.8
Prose Fiction, Juveniles	79.04	80.1	79.5	83.2

RECEIPTS.

The receipts for the year were:

From Fines.....	\$ 611.70
“ the Sale of Finding Lists.....	28.20
	<hr/> \$ 639.90

This is an increase of \$113.55, or 21.5 per cent. over the preceding year.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

At present, we have about eleven hundred volumes exclusively for reference. (This number does not include any public documents.) Nine hundred are accessible to the public without restraint, while the remaining two hundred are kept within the rail and obtained by request. The latter include old and rare editions, folios, and books of a convenient size for the pockets of visitors.

During the year, this department has been enriched by Champlin's Cyclopædia of painters and painting, Tuckerman's Book of the artists, Richter's literary works of Leonarde da Vinci, Masterpieces of German art, Grove's Dictionary of music and musicians, Loudon's Encyclopædia of plants, Skeat's Etymological dictionary, Watt's Dictionary of chemistry, Spon's Encyclopædia of industrial arts and Dictionary of engineering, Brand's Dictionary of science, literature and art, The English encyclopædia, complete set of The Nation, and of the Magazine of American History, and many more desirable and valuable works.

We had hoped to include a large proportion of the Spofford Reference List, but the majority, though ordered, have not yet arrived.

It is a matter of regret that, of all the departments of the library, this should be so limited as to space and facilities. A reference room 14x26 is not sufficient for a growing library of twenty thousand volumes, and a city of ninety thousand inhabitants.

The library's greatest loss occurred here. Four books were stolen during the year. Three were replaced for a small sum, but the fourth, being the first of a valuable set, has not yet been obtained.

This is not strange, as in few libraries are the reference books so accessible to the public. The trouble has been somewhat remedied by removing the smaller books, and by having an attendant's desk placed where it commands a view of the room. This does not settle the question, however. When the books which have been ordered arrive, to do the good desired, they must be where the people can see them. For a reference library, well arranged shelves form the best catalogue. The circulating department demands the full time of the two attendants, with the exception of about three hours each day. For this reason the reference room is alone much of the time.

What the library needs is an attendant to watch these books and to assist readers; also a larger and better equipped room, or rather rooms, where classes may come and have everything on their subject, whether it be from the reference or circulating departments.

That this would be satisfactory, was fully demonstrated by the Shakespeare classes of last winter. These, being limited, were given part of the room used by the librarian. This will be impossible in the future, as the space is always in use for library work.

To quote from our good friend Mr. Poole: "The use of books for reference is the highest purpose to which they can be applied. The library will never be able to do its best work, or fulfill its true mission, until it is provided with sufficient space to give scholarly persons convenient accommodations for pursuing their studies in the room."

The estimated daily average attendance for the eight months beginning with September, was 150; for the summer months, 80; making a total of 45,600.

The number of books issued for use at the reference table was 7,365.

READING ROOM.

The reading room has been open to the public 358 days during the year. The estimated daily attendance was 280, making a total of 100,440.

This department is supplied with 109 serials — 90 are purchased and 19 given. 70 are periodicals and 39 newspapers. Of the latter, 21 are dailies, 17 weeklies, 1 semi-weekly, and 1 monthly. The periodicals comprise 33 monthlies, 31 weeklies, 1 fortnightly, 2 bi-monthlies, 3 quarterlies. A complete list will be found in Appendix A.

AIDS AND GUIDES.

Having such a small regular staff, the library is unable to do much in this line of work. It has been our aim and intention to supply the Public Schools and Union Pacific shops with finding list and type-written bulletins. The librarian earnestly requests that the teachers of the city will impress their pupils with the idea that any member of the library is willing

and anxious to assist them at any time, and never to leave the library without the desired information.

The much-longed-for card-catalogue is rapidly progressing, under the supervision of Mr. Charles Evans. At the same time, the books are being re-arranged, re-classified and re-numbered. A new and complete finding list will be published when this work is done, and it is expected that in October, the library will be upon a metropolitan basis.

REMARKS.

A special effort is being made to collect books, pamphlets, maps, etc., relating to the city, state and the whole north-west. The task is not an easy one. A number of books have been obtained at clearance sales; but we are so far from Eastern dealers, and so little latitude is given in buying, that before our order is received, the books are on the shelves of other libraries.

Through the courtesy of Mr. C. L. Fritscher, of this city, we have been enabled to nearly complete our set of Omaha Directories.

The question of heating and ventilating still remains unsolved. Each day emphasizes the necessity of permanent, suitable and adequate quarters. The demand is imperative that a collection, increasing every day in value, should be placed where it is not so injured by heat and dust, and liable to loss by fire.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my assistants for their faithfulness and enthusiasm in library work.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSIE ALLAN, Librarian.

[APPENDIX A.]

SERIALS IN THE READING ROOM.

DAILIES.

Omaha Bee (2 copies)	Omaha Herald (2 copies)
Omaha Republican (2 copies)	Omaha World (2 copies)
Boston Advertiser	Chicago Inter-Ocean
Chicago Times	Chicago Tribune
Cincinnati Enquirer	Denver Republican
New York Graphic	New York Sun
New York Tribune	New York World
Philadelphia Times	St. Louis Globe-Democrat
St. Paul Pioneer Press	

SEMI-WEEKLIES.

The Watchman

WEEKLIES.

American Architect	American Machinist
Army and Navy Journal	Atlanta Constitution
Chicago Express	Christian Hour
Christian Register	Critic
Die Gartenlaube	Deutsch Zeitung, San Diego, Cal.
Economist	Engineer
Forest and Stream	Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly
Harper's Bazar	Harper's Weekly
Harper's Young People	John Swinton's Paper
Labor Inquirer	Life
Literary World	Littell's Living Age
London Architect	London Graphic
London Times	Madison (Neb.) Chronicle
Midland	Nation
National City (Cal.) Record	Nature
Nebraska Watchman	New Orleans Times-Democrat.
New Church Messenger	New Republic
Omaha Excelsior	Omaha Svenska Posten
Omaha Truth	Patent Office Gazette
Saturday Review	Science
Scientific American	Scientific American Supplement
Ueber Land und Meer	Union Signal
Washington Star	Western Newspaper Union
Youth's Companion	

FORTNIGHTLY.

Revue des deux Mondes

MONTHLY.

American Builder	American Journal of Science
and Woodworker	Atlantic Monthly
Blackwood's Edinburgh	Century (2 copies)
Magazine (2 copies)	Church Guardian
Contemporary Review	Edinburgh Review
English Illustrated Magazine	Fortnightly Review
Forum	Harper's Monthly (2 copies)
Library Journal	Lippincott's Magazine
Literary News	Magazine of Art
Magazine of American History	Manifesto
Nineteenth Century	North American Review
Outing	Popular Science Monthly
Railroad and	St. Nicholas (2 copies)
Engineering Journal	Scribner's Magazine
Shakespeariana	Sunday Magazine (English)
Unitarian Review	Woman's Tribune

BI-MONTHLIES.

Education	New Princeton Review
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QUARTERLIES.

London Quarterly	Mind	Westminster
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[APPENDIX B.]

RECAPITULATION.

	1886-87	1885-86	INCREASE
Books added	2,613	1,898	715
Book-Borrowers Registered .	2,119	2,025	94
Circulation (home use)....	90,341	80,090	10,251
Visitors to Reference Room..	45,600	35,255	10,345
Visitors to Reading Room..	100,440	98,725	11,715
Periodicals in Reading Room.	109	93	16
Receipts	\$ 639.90	\$ 526.35	\$ 113.55

State of Nebraska, }
DOUGLAS COUNTY. } ss.

*Lewis S. Reed, Secretary of the Board of Directors of
the Omaha Public Library, being duly sworn, says that the
foregoing report is true, as he verily believes.*

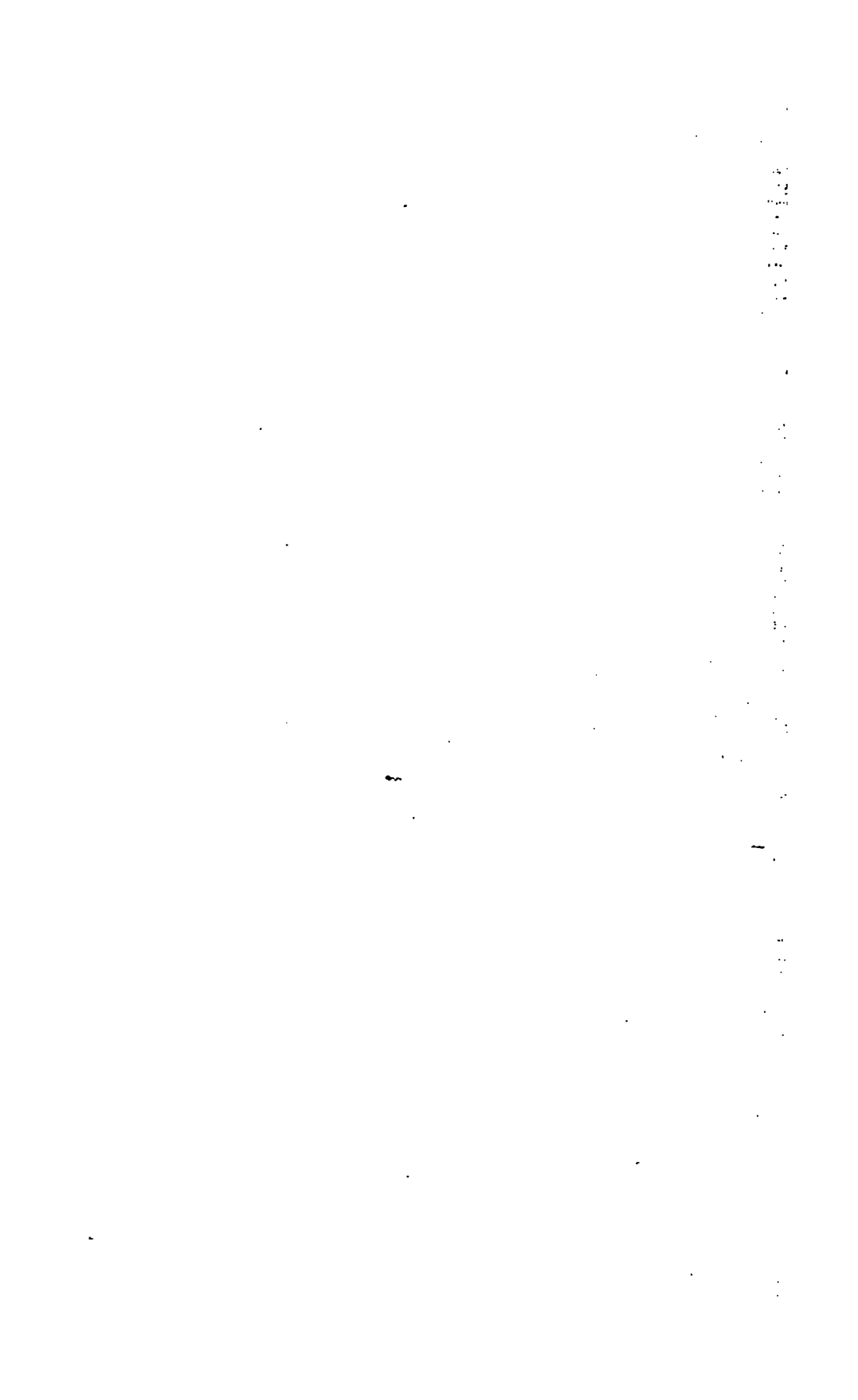
LEWIS S. REED.

*Signed in my presence, and sworn to before me
this 13th day of June, 1887.*

HARRY D. REED,

Notary Public.







ANNUAL REPORT

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

1888.



THE
ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MAY 31st 1888.



OMAHA: 1888
PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS,
1518 FARNAM STREET, 4.

REES PRINTING COMPANY:
PRINTERS, LITHOGRAPHERS AND BINDERS,
COR. 11TH AND HOWARD STREETS, OMAHA.

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT,
JAMES W. SAVAGE.

VICE-PRESIDENT,
WILLIAM WALLACE.

SECRETARY,
LEWIS S. REED.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Term expires July 1st, 1889.

WILLIAM WALLACE.
P. L. PERINE.
LEWIS S. REED.

Term expires July 1st, 1890.

JAMES W. SAVAGE.
THOS. K. SUDBOROUGH.
CLAIRE RUSTIN.

Term expires July 1st, 1891.

ELIZABETH E. POPPLETON.
JOHN WILSON.
ELIJAH DUNN.

COMMITTEES.

Executive—Directors WALLACE, DUNN, PERINE, and SUDBOROUGH.

Book—Directors POPPLETON, WILSON and RUSTIN.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

LIBRARIAN.

JESSIE ALLAN.

ASSISTANTS.

MARGARET A. O'BRIEN.
EDITH TOBITT.

BLANCHE A. ALLAN.
THEODORA M. BURSTALL.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

To the City Council of the City of Omaha:

Four names are closely identified with the first move toward the founding of a free library in Omaha—those of John T. Edgar, Nathan Shelton, Albert M. Henry and Albert Swartzlander. The younger men held enthusiastic discussions of ways and means, while Mr. Edgar, who believed that there was no selfishness like the hoarding of a book, laid aside many of his own choice volumes and destined them for the shelves of the new collection. The matter took definite shape late in 1871. December 3rd of that year "Articles of Incorporation of the Omaha Library Association" were adopted and signed by the following: T. E. Sickles, St. A. D. Balcombe, H. Kountze, H. W. Yates, George L. Miller, John T. Edgar, Ezra Millard, Albert Swartzlander, N. Shelton, Charles H. Brown, Preston H. Allen, Albert M. Henry.

HISTORY.

The first meeting of the stockholders was held December 30th at the rooms of the Board of Trade. The first Board of Directors was then chosen, as follows: A. J. Poppleton, St. A. D. Balcombe, H. W. Yates, John T. Edgar, John Patrick, A. Swartzlander, S. S. Caldwell, G. L. Miller, J. W. Gannett, N. Shelton, A. M. Henry. The first election of officers took place January 3, 1872, and resulted as follows: President, A. J. Poppleton; Vice-President, N. Shelton; Treasurer, S. S. Caldwell;

Secretary, Albert Swartzlander ; Corresponding Secretary, A. M. Henry.

At the same meeting steps were taken toward the collecting of books. A committee was appointed to wait on J. M. Pattee, who had recently offered a number of volumes to the city of Omaha, and also to examine a collection of eight hundred books held for sale by E. O. Crosby, of Fremont, Neb. The negotiations ended in the gift, under certain conditions, of the Pattee library from the city, and its acceptance by the Association March 2, 1872, and April 15th is recorded the purchase of seven hundred volumes from Mr. Crosby. April 15th, also, Messrs. Edgar, Henry, Swartzlander, Shelton and Brown reported that they had rented a library room of A. J. Simpson; that they had arranged the books in proper divisions, and had them covered in cloth, catalogued and numbered, and that the same were now ready for use.

Possessed thus of a habitation and a name, the Library became at once a factor in the history of the town. The record of its private ownership covers a period of nearly six years; the names associated with it call up many and varied remembrances. Some are dead, some have removed to other cities, many are still a part of the best that is planned and executed in the town, and many look with satisfaction on the result of that small beginning made more than a decade ago.

The first home of the Library was a small room in the second story of Simpson's block, on Fourteenth, between Dodge and Douglas streets. The Post-office occupied the first story in that primitive time, and in the third was Simpson's hall, the scene of nearly all the entertainments

of those days. From this little room over the Post-office the first catalogue of books was issued early in 1872, showing a total of 2,285 volumes. In February, 1874, the Library was removed to the second story of R. M. Marshall's building, on the north side of Dodge, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets.

Reference has already been made to the generosity of Mr. John T. Edgar. This writing would be sadly incomplete did it fail to note the faithful service which the Library received from its most efficient friend.

Mr. Edgar possessed an absorbing love for books and a great eagerness to share his delight in them with others. He believed that they should be like the air and sunshine, the common property of men. His father and grandfather before him had founded libraries, and the giving away of books was with Mr. Edgar a life-long habit. Between the years 1868 and 1874 he gave away 1,500 volumes, the larger part to the Omaha Library. His face was always a familiar one in the little Library room. He was for two years President, and, during four, Chairman of the Book Committee, withdrawing only when his departure for Syria made it inevitable. The following resolutions stand upon the records, dated April 6, 1875:

WHEREAS, Our worthy President, John T. Edgar is obliged by his acceptance of the position of Consul to Beirut, to resign his place among us; therefore

Resolved, That in accepting his resignation we tender him our hearty thanks for his past services as member and president of this board, and for the frequent and generous donations of books in the past, and offer him our congratulations for the honorable position that the government of the United States has bestowed, and he has

accepted, and express at the same time our sorrow and regret that it necessitates his withdrawal from our midst.

Resolved, That in his removal Omaha loses one of its most valued and useful citizens, the cause of education in our city one of its greatest promoters, and our library its most efficient friend.

Resolved further, That he be hereby made an honorary member of this association for life.

February 17, 1877, there was approved by the legislature of the state of Nebraska an "Act to authorize incorporated towns and cities to establish and maintain free public libraries and reading rooms." In June of the same year the directors adopted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, It is evident that this association is not able to keep the library and reading room open with its present and prospective income, be it

Resolved, That the president pro tem appoint a committee of three to consult with the city council of Omaha and inquire whether it will establish and maintain a public library and reading room for the use of the inhabitants of this city, under the act of the legislature approved February 17, 1877.

The city signified its readiness to maintain such library and reading room by an ordinance approved June 13th. The stockholders approved this proposed disposition of the library property June 21st, and August 3d the board took the final action in the matter. August 6, 1877, at a meeting of the first board of directors of the Omaha Public Library, a certificate made by Leavitt Burnham, secretary of the Omaha Library Association, dated August 4, 1877, being a transfer of the books and property of said association to the Omaha Public Library Board, was read and ordered placed on file.

From the period when the library thus came under the

fostering care of this growing and liberal city, its success has been assured and its growth rapid and uniform.

The members of the city council since that time have, almost without exception, shown an enlightened comprehension of its value and needs, and an ungrudging liberality in its support. To this, more than to any one circumstance, may be ascribed its acknowledged usefulness.

ROOMS.

Soon after its transfer to the city, rooms were secured for the library in the building now standing on the northeast corner of Dodge and Fifteenth streets. This edifice was then only two stories in height, and the accommodations consisted of two rooms in the second story. But upon the addition of a third story by Mr. L. B. Williams, the owner of the premises, the institution was enabled to secure nearly the whole of the additional room, and for the first time possessed accommodations in any degree commensurate with its needs.

But in 1885 the increase in the number both of books and visitors compelled the directors to seek new quarters, which were found in two stories of the building Nos. 1505 and 1507 Douglas street. These, while objectionable in some respects, afforded sufficient space until January of the current year, when another move was made to the present rooms in Paxton building, No. 1518 Farnam street.

These apartments will probably afford necessary accommodations for a year or two longer, when, should the new city hall be completed upon the plans proposed by Mendelssohn & Fisher, of this city, it may be hoped that the institution may find as permanent quarters as it

can hope for until the long wished for time when private munificence or a public sense of duty shall furnish for our books a structure which shall be at once a credit to our city and an attraction to our citizens.

CATALOGUES.

The principal difficulty experienced by the managers of growing collections either of literature or art, is found in keeping visitors acquainted with the nature of their accumulations as fast as they are made. During the past year the card-catalogue, to which reference was made in the tenth annual report, has been completed and is now in daily use. By its aid the day a new book is received the public is apprised of the accession. The works by any given author and the works upon any particular subject are all so grouped together that the difficulty and delay of ascertaining just what the library contains, by any person or upon any subject, are reduced to a minimum. An expert cataloguer was employed for a year in putting this system into operation; but now our own librarian can carry on the work, and add to the catalogue from time to time such accessions as are made to the library. The invention of this simple and admirable system has added greatly to the usefulness of all large collections of books.

REPORTS.

To the reports of the Secretary and Librarian, which will be found hereto appended, the Directors refer for details of the finances and work of the institution.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JAS. W. SAVAGE,

President of the Board of Directors.

NOTE—Most of the historical portion of the foregoing report is copied from an interesting article contributed to the *Omaha Herald* of November 20, 1886, by Miss Elizabeth E. Poppleton. J. W. S.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

HON. JAMES W. SAVAGE,
PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.

SIR :

The following statement shows the amount of money expended for the maintenance of the Public Library and Reading Rooms for the year ending June 1st, 1888:

BOOK ACCOUNT.

For Books Purchased.....	\$3,425.53
For Binding and Re-binding.....	390.10
For Periodicals	379.99
For Insurance	87.70
	<hr/>
	\$4,283.32

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Rent	\$2,058.32
Gas.....	354.85
Furniture and Improvements.....	1,326.73
	<hr/>
	\$3,739.90

SALARY ACCOUNT.

Librarian and Assistants.....	\$2,754.15
Janitor	257.75
Making Card-Catalogue.....	1,749.93
	<hr/>
	\$4,761.83

SUPPLY ACCOUNT.

Printing, stationery and postage.....	\$1,046.40
Ice, matches, brooms, etc.....	32.20
Cartage and miscellaneous.....	62.33
	<hr/>
	\$1,140.93

Total.....\$13,925.98

Very respectfully,

LEWIS S. REED,

OMAHA, June 9th, 1888.

Secretary.

EXPENDITURES OF FORMER YEARS.

		BOOK ACCOUNT	BUILDING ACCOUNT	SALARY ACCOUNT	SUPPLY ACCOUNT	TOTAL
For fractional year ending June 1st, 1878		\$ 186.93	\$ 627.48	\$ 375.25	\$ 54.80	\$ 1244.46
For year ending June 1st, 1879.....		1342.95	467.95	563.15	94.90	2468.95
" " 1880.....		1283.98	446.77	676.00	137.45	2544.20
" " 1881.....		1047.28	812.56	755.00	84.00	2698.84
" " 1882.....		1432.38	775.46	920.00	127.55	3255.39
" " 1883.....		1903.83	860.81	1080.00	121.80	3966.44
" " 1884.....		2041.02	1446.83	1260.00	125.65	4873.50
" " 1885.....		4495.22	1586.36	1789.20	507.85	8378.63
" " 1886.....		3805.56	1867.85	2142.26	257.99	8073.66
" " 1887.....		4616.37	2006.91	2522.05	353.52	9498.85
" " 1888.....		4283.32	3739.90	4761.83	1140.93	13925.98

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, June 1st, 1888.

To the Board of Directors, Omaha Public Library:

Herewith is respectfully submitted the Eleventh Annual Report of the Librarian of the Omaha Public Library, for the year ending May 31, 1888.

BOOKS.

The present number of entries in the accession catalogue is 19,177. The number of volumes entered during the year was 2,327, of which 1,930 were additions by purchase, 20 by binding periodicals, and 387 gifts.

For the latter we are especially indebted to Mrs. Susan B. Grant for 104 old and rare books; to Mrs. Fanny Edgar for 26 volumes of works in foreign languages; to the Omaha National Bank for 16 volumes and a large number of unbound periodicals.

The number of books worn out and condemned was 256. This includes about 75 volumes of Alger and Adams, these authors having been discontinued in the Library. Lost books number 8. Net gain for the year 2,063.

BOOK-BORROWERS.

The total number of book-borrowers' cards issued from

February, 1878, to June 1, 1888, is 14,411. The number of registration during the year was 2,293.

CIRCULATION.

During the year, the Circulating Department has been open for the delivery of books 301 days; 95,488 books were issued for home use, a gain of 5,147 over the preceding year. The average daily circulation was 314. The largest number of books issued in one day was 687, March 17, 1888; the smallest 113, September 6, 1887. The circulation and daily average, month by month, as compared with the preceding year, is shown by the following table:

MONTH	1887-88.			1886-87.		
	DAYS	CIRCULATION	AVERAGE	DAYS	CIRCULATION	AVERAGE
June.....	26	6,568	253	26	6,206	234
July.....	25	7,016	281	26	6,998	230
August.....	27	7,024	260	26	6,843	263
September..	26	6,793	261	26	6,676	256
October.....	26	7,509	289	26	7,508	289
November..	25	7,507	300	25	7,417	296
December...	26	7,835	301	26	7,350	282
January.....	21	7,509	358	25	8,360	334
February...	22	8,829	401	23	8,349	363
March.....	27	10,610	392	27	8,719	323
April.....	24	8,868	369	25	8,148	326
May.....	26	9,420	362	25	7,767	311

The following table shows the per cent for the past

year and the three previous years, in the seven classes of books of which a record has been kept:

	1887-88	1886-87	1885-86	1884-85
Poetry and Drama.....	1.6	1.56	1.5	1.2
Science and Theology.....	2.38	3.22	2.2	2.5
Art, Essays and Miscellanies..	3.5	5.68	5.7	7.1
History.....	3.39	4.28	4.2	4.3
Voyages and Travels.....	2.48	3.67	3.4	3.3
Biography.....	2.03	2.55	2.2	2.1
Prose Fiction, Juveniles.....	84.62	79.04	80.1	79.5

The above figures are not very creditable to either the public or the library, and we feel that an explanation is justifiable. All regular work was inconvenienced and made second in importance to that of reorganizing and cataloguing. Our old list was practically worthless; bulletins of new books were not made; it was necessary to call by giving author and title; the position, order and numbers of all books were changed, and in this transition period many could not be found while others consumed extra time. This state of affairs kept many from the library, and most of those who were undaunted by these obstacles took works of fiction. These books remained undisturbed during the time that nine-tenths of the remaining departments were being arranged and shelf-listed. In addition to this fact, but part were withdrawn at one time and these were easily card-catalogued and made ready for circulation.

CATALOGUES.

The work of a general reorganization of the book department was begun by Mr. Charles Evans, April 18,

1887. The library was divided into twenty-four grand divisions, each being sub-divided according to importance and the resources of the library. In English prose fiction, juvenile, essays, collected works, periodicals and foreign languages, a strict alphabetical arrangement was the rule. In collected biography, the size of the book determined its position. Individual biographies were arranged alphabetically according to subject, with rearrangement according to size.

This was the rule in the other classes, being modified as the class of books required.

This gives the library an excellent shelf classification which I believe could not be improved except by substituting an alphabetical rule in preference to that of sizing. The last undoubtedly adds to appearance, but our experience has already demonstrated that for easy and rapid delivery the alphabetical order would have been the best.

All the library, exclusive of two hundred miscellaneous volumes and the public documents, have been reclassified, shelf listed and numbered. Poetry and drama, English prose fiction, juvenile, biography, history, travel, natural science, practical arts, periodicals, and a part of essays and miscellanies are card-catalogued.

The number of cards arranged in the drawers is 24,837. Of those books otherwise prepared, 4,000 remain to be card-catalogued.

The first week in February, Mr. Evans began the compilation of the finding list, which was nearly finished before his departure, April 15, 1888. The list contains

252 pages, is admirably arranged and indexed, and the public cannot fail to appreciate it.

We think that quite a feat was accomplished in reorganizing a library of nearly twenty thousand volumes without closing the doors a single day.

ROOMS.

The library was closed to the public January, 17, 1888, and reopened in the Paxton building the 21st of the same month. The building is centrally located, is reached by five lines of street and cable cars. It is supplied with the long hoped for elevator, and is admirably lighted, heated and ventilated. It is to be hoped that the next move will be into our own building where reading room, circulating and reference departments can be given separate and suitable quarters.

REFERENCE ROOM.

The most satisfactory feature of the new room is the space reserved for reference. It is perfectly distinct from the other departments and affords a quiet and pleasant study room.

Miss Poppleton's class in English literature has had the privilege of using the room one hour each week. Fifty persons were easily accommodated and occasioned no annoyance to either public or library.

READING ROOM.

The reading room is supplied with one hundred and six serials, eighty-six being purchases and twenty-six, gifts. The list comprises twenty dailies, forty-five weeklies, one

fort-nightly, thirty-five monthlies, two bi-monthlies and three quarterlies.

While this has been a year of improvement, it is hoped that the coming will witness an unusual growth. We daily realize our deficiencies in the reference and circulating departments, and it will be our aim to so govern our purchases that the library will be developed for the greatest good, a symmetrical and beautiful monument erected by the people for the people.

“Books are the legacies that genius leaves to mankind, to be delivered down from generation to generation as presents to the posterity of those who are yet unborn.”

Respectfully submitted,

JESSIE ALLAN,

Librarian.

		ACCESSIONS	HOME CIR- CULATION.	CARDS ISSUED.	FINES, ETC.
For the year ending May 31, 1879		—	34,476	992	\$223.65
"	"	886	41,238	760	283.25
"	"	1881	36,202	787	263.80
"	"	1882	44,610	904	326.00
"	"	1883	54,600	1,162	376.00
"	"	1884	57,204	1,198	379.05
"	"	1885	60,907	1,167	438.35
"	"	1886	80,090	2,025	526.35
"	"	1887	90,341	2,119	639.90
"	"	1888	95,488	2,293	658.40

LIST OF PERIODICALS.

For the Reading Room.

DAILIES.

Boston Advertiser	New York World
Chicago Times	Omaha Bee (2 copies)
Chicago Tribune	Omaha Herald (2 copies)
Cincinnati Enquirer	Omaha Republican (2 copies)
Denver Republican	Omaha World (2 copies)
Kansas City Journal	Philadelphia Times
New York Graphic	San Diego (Cal) San Diegan
New York Tribune	St. Louis Globe Democrat

WEEKLIES.

American Architect	Martha's Vineyard Herald
American Machinist	Midland
Army and Navy Journal	Nation
Atlanta Constitution	National City (Cal) Record
Christian Register	Nature
Critic	Nebraska Watchman
Die Gartenlaube	New Church Messenger
Engineer	New Orleans Times-
Forest and Stream	Democrat
Frank Leslie's Illustrated	New Republic
Weekly	Omaha Excelsior
Garden and Forest	Omaha Svenska Posten
Harper's Bazar	Omaha Truth
Harper's Weekly	Patent Office Gazette
Harper's Young People	Saturday Review
Labor Inquirer	Science
Life	Scientific American
Literary World	Scientific American
Littell's Living Age	Supplement
London Architect	Ueber Land und Meer
London Graphic	Union Signal
London Times	Washington Star
Lordsburg (Cal) Eagle	Western Newspaper Union
Madison (Neb) Chronicle	Youth's Companion

FORTNIGHTLY.

Revue des deux Mondes.

MONTHLIES.

American Builder and Wood-Worker	Magazine of American History
American Journal of Science	Magazine of Art (Cassell's)
Atlantic Monthly	Manifesto
Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine	Nineteenth Century North American Review
Century (2 copies)	Outing
Church Guardian	Popular Science Monthly
Contemporary Review	Railroad and Engineering Journal
Dial, The	Scribner's Magazine
Edinburgh Review	St. Nicholas (2 copies)
English Illustrated Magazine	Shakespeariana
Fortnightly Review	Sunday Magazine (English)
Forum	Unitarian Review
Harper's Monthly (2 copies)	Western Resources
Library Journal	Woman
Lippincott's Magazine	Womans' Tribune
Literary News	

BI-MONTHLIES.

Education	New Princeton Review
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QUARTERLIES.

London Quarterly	Mind	Westminster Review
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STATE OF NEBRASKA, } ss.
DOUGLAS COUNTY.

*James W. Savage, President of the Board of Directors
of the Omaha Public Library, being duly sworn, says
that the foregoing report is true as he verily believes.*

JAS. W. SAVAGE.

*Sworn to before me this 2d day of
July, A. D. 1888.*

HERBERT J. DAVIS,
Notary Public.











Annual Report =

Omaha Public Library

1889



TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOR THE

Year Ending May 31st, 1889.

841



OMAHA, NEBRASKA:
PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS,
1518 FARNAM ST. W

REES PRINTING COMPANY
PRINTERS, LITHOGRAPHERS AND BINDERS
11TH & HOWARD STREETS, OMAHA

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT,
JAMES W. SAVAGE.

VICE-PRESIDENT,
WILLIAM WALLACE.

SECRETARY,
LEWIS S. REED.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Term expires July 1st, 1890.

JAMES W. SAVAGE.
THOS. K. SUDBOROUGH.
CLAIRE RUSTIN.

Term expires July 1st, 1891.

ELIZABETH E. POPPLETON.
JOHN WILSON.
ELIJAH DUNN.

Term expires July 1st, 1892.

WILLIAM WALLACE.
P. L. PERINE.
LEWIS S. REED.

COMMITTEES.

Executive—Directors WALLACE, DUNN, PERINE, and SUDBOROUGH.

Book—Directors POPPLETON, WILSON, and RUSTIN.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

LIBRARIAN.

JESSIE ALLAN.

ASSISTANTS.

MARGARET A. O'BRIEN.
EDITH TOBITT.

BLANCHE A. ALLAN.
THEODORA M. BURSTALL.



TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

To the City Council of the City of Omaha :

The act to authorize towns and cities to establish and maintain free public libraries and reading rooms, passed in the year 1877, is as follows:

SECTION 1. The city or town council of each incorporated city or town shall have power to establish and maintain a public library and reading room for use of the inhabitants of such city or town and may levy a tax of not more than one mill on the dollar annually, to be levied and collected in like manner as other taxes of said city or town, and to be known as the library fund.

SEC. 2. When any city or town council shall have decided by ordinance to establish and maintain a public library and reading room under this act they shall elect a library board of nine directors to be chosen from the citizens at large, of which board neither the mayor nor any member of the city or town council shall be a member. Such directors, first elected, shall hold their office, three for the term of one year, three for the term of two years, and three for the term of three years, from the first day of July following their appointment, and three directors shall be chosen annually thereafter, and in cases of vacancies by resignation, removal or otherwise, the council shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired term, and no director shall receive any pay or compensation for any services rendered as a member of such board, and such directors shall give such bond as the council may require.

SEC. 3. Such directors shall, immediately after their appointment, meet and organize by electing one of their number president, and such other officers as may be necessary. Five of such board shall be a quorum. They shall have power to make and adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations for their own guidance and for the government of the library and reading room as they may deem

expedient, subject to the supervision and control of the city or town council, and not inconsistent with this act. They shall have exclusive control of expenditures of all moneys collected or donated to the credit of the library fund, and of the renting or construction of any library building, the supervision, care and custody of the grounds, rooms or buildings constructed, leased or set apart for that purpose.

SEC. 4. Any tax levied or collected, or funds donated thereto shall be kept for the use of such library separate and apart from other funds of said city or town, and shall be drawn upon by the proper officers upon the authenticated vouchers of the library board, and shall not be used or disbursed for any other purpose.

SEC. 5. The library board shall have power to purchase or lease grounds; to erect, lease or occupy an appropriate building for the use of such library; to appoint a suitable librarian and assistants, to fix their compensation and remove their appointments at pleasure; and shall have power to establish regulations for the government of such library as may be deemed necessary for its preservation, and to maintain its usefulness and efficiency; and to fix and impose by general rules, penalties and forfeitures for trespasses or injury upon or to the library grounds, rooms, books or other property, or failure to return any book or for violation of any by-law or regulation; and shall have and exercise such power as may be necessary to carry out the spirit and intent of this act, in establishing and maintaining a public library and reading room.

SEC. 6. Every library and reading room established under this act, shall be forever free to the use of the inhabitants of the city or town, subject always to such reasonable regulations as the library board may adopt to render said library and reading room of the greatest use to the inhabitants of said city or town, and the board may exclude from the use of the library and reading rooms, any person who shall willfully violate or refuse to comply with rules and regulations established for the government thereof.

SEC. 7. The library board shall on or before the second Monday in June in each year, make a report to the city or town council of the condition of their trust on the

first day of June in each year, showing all moneys received or expended, the number of books or periodicals on hand, newspapers and current literature subscribed for or donated to the reading room department; the number of books and periodicals ordered by purchase, gift, or obtained during the year and the number lost or missing; the number of visitors attending; the number and character of books loaned or issued, with such statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest or as the city or town council may require, which report shall be verified by affidavit of the proper officers of said board.

SEC. 8. Any by-law or regulation established by the library board may be amended or annulled by the council of said city or town.

SEC. 9. Penalties imposed or accruing by any by-law or regulation of the library board may be recovered in a civil action before the police judge or any justice of the peace or other court having jurisdiction; such action to be instituted in the name of the "library board of the city or town library," and moneys collected in such action shall be forthwith placed in the city treasury to the credit of the library fund.

SEC. 10. Any person may make any donation of money or lands for the benefit of such library, and the title to property so donated may be made to and shall vest in the library board, and their successors in office, and such board shall thereby become the owners thereof in trust to the uses of the public library of the city or town.

SEC. 11. The property of such library shall be exempt from execution and shall also be exempt from taxation as other public property.

SEC. 12. The library board shall have power to authorize any circulating library, reading matter or work of art of any private person, association or corporation to be deposited in the public library rooms, to be drawn or used outside of the rooms only on payment of such fee or membership as the person, corporation or association owning the same may require. Deposits may be removed by the owner thereof at pleasure, but the books or other reading matter so deposited in the rooms of any such public library shall be separately and distinctly marked

and kept upon shelves apart from the books of the public city or town library; and every such private or associate library or other property so deposited in any public library while so placed or remaining shall be subject to use and reading within the library room without charge by any person, an inhabitant of said city or town and entitled to the use of the free library.

Under the above law the operations of the library have been carried on since its passage. It is to be noted, however, that the acts incorporating metropolitan cities and defining, regulating and prescribing their powers, duties and government, provide also for the establishment and maintenance of public libraries. See section 59 of the city charter passed at the January session, 1889, which is as follows:

SECTION 59. The mayor and council shall have power to establish and maintain public libraries, reading rooms, art galleries and museums, and to provide the necessary grounds or buildings therefor; to purchase books, papers, maps, manuscripts and works of art and objects of natural or scientific curiosity and instruction therefor and to receive donations and bequests of money or property for the same in trust or otherwise. They may also pass necessary by-laws and regulations for the protection and government of the same.

Whether section 59 of the charter supercedes the law first above quoted; whether the two conflict in any way and if so to what extent; whether further legislation by the State or city government may be necessary to define the exact position of the library and its directors are important questions which the directors think should be submitted to the legal advisers of the city. Fortunately for the interests of the library no conflict of action or even of views can arise between the council and the board, so long as those bodies remain as at present

constituted. The enlightened comprehension by the mayor and city council of the needs of the institution; their ready compliance with all reasonable requests made in its behalf, and their evident desire to conserve and extend its usefulness are sufficient guarantees that for the present at least the library will have the intelligent and earnest support of the councilmen as well as of the directors. But we submit that such important interests should not be left to the hazard of popular prejudice or party zeal, and that no time can be better for the settlement of the questions suggested than one when all parties are harmonious and anxious only for the well-being and advancement of so important an adjunct to education and good government.

The library still occupies the rooms in the Paxton building referred to in the last annual report. They are well lighted, airy and at present sufficiently spacious for the absolute needs of its patrons. Need is felt of a room for the directors, so that the quiet of a reading room may not be disturbed by the necessary noise and bustle of a meeting. It is manifest, too, that the increase in the number both of books and readers will soon render additional accommodations absolutely essential. It is hoped that in some degree these requirements may be met by the quarters to be furnished in the new city hall. The committee of your body charged with the duty of assigning such quarters have given to the library about the same area as it at present occupies. While if the new edifice is completed within the next two years this space may be for a time sufficient, we foresee that the period is rapidly approaching when a structure solely devoted to library purposes will be imperatively

called for. This has been the burden of our reports for several years past.

The special items of information called for by statute will be found accompanying this, in the detailed reports of the secretary and librarian. It would be hardly just however to allow the gift of Mr. Byron Reed to the library to be passed as a mere item in the list of donations. His contribution to the shelves a few months since of more than two hundred bound volumes of the "Monthly Review"—an unbroken series from the year 1749 to 1841—is not only of large intrinsic value, but will long prove of great importance to the student of special subjects in history, science or literature.

JAS. W. SAVAGE,

President of the Board of Directors.

JUNE 10, 1889.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

HON. JAMES W. SAVAGE,
President of Public Library Board.

SIR:

The following statement shows the amount of money expended for the maintenance of the Public Library and Reading Rooms for the year ending June 1st, 1889:

BOOK ACCOUNT.

For Books Purchased	\$4,665.43	
For Periodicals	383.82	
For Binding and Re-binding	519.03	
For Insurance	88.00	
	<hr/>	\$5,656.28

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Rent	\$2,400.00	
Gas	373.54	
Furniture and Improvements	267.68	
Janitor	312.75	
	<hr/>	\$3,353.97

SALARY ACCOUNT.

Librarian and Assistants	\$3,153.99
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SUPPLY ACCOUNT.

Printing, stationery and postage	\$265.11	
Ice, matches, brooms, etc	267.63	
Miscellaneous	19.90	
	<hr/>	\$352.64

Total	\$12,516.88
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Very respectfully,

LEWIS S. REED,

OMAHA, June 10th, 1889.

Secretary.

EXPENDITURES OF FORMER YEARS.

		BOOK ACCOUNT	BUILDING ACCOUNT	SALARY ACCOUNT	SUPPLY ACCOUNT	TOTAL
	For fractional year ending June 1st, 1878.....	\$ 186.93	\$ 627.48	\$ 375.25	\$ 54.80	\$ 1244.46
	For year ending June 1st, 1879.....	1342.95	467.95	563.15	94.90	2468.95
	“ “ 1880.....	1283.98	446.77	676.00	137.45	2544.20
	“ “ 1881.....	1047.28	812.56	755.00	84.00	2698.84
	“ “ 1882.....	1432.38	775.46	920.00	127.55	3255.39
	“ “ 1883.....	1903.83	860.81	1080.00	121.80	3966.44
	“ “ 1884.....	2041.02	1446.83	1260.00	125.65	4873.50
	“ “ 1885.....	4495.22	1586.36	1789.20	507.85	8378.63
	“ “ 1886.....	3805.56	1867.85	2142.26	257.99	8073.66
	“ “ 1887.....	4616.37	2006.91	2522.05	353.52	9498.85
	“ “ 1888.....	4283.32	3739.90	4761.83	1140.93	13925.98
	“ “ 1889.....	5656.28	3353.97	3153.99	352.64	12516.88

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, June 1, 1889.

To the Board of Directors, Omaha Public Library:

It is with pleasure that the Twelfth Annual Report of the Librarian of the Omaha Public Library is herewith submitted.

It had been our intention to compare the growth, work and expenditures with those of other libraries, but the great difference in what is termed a library year makes a just comparison impossible.

BOOKS.

The present number of entries in the accession catalogue is 22,982. The number reported June 1, 1888, 19,177; showing a gain of 3,805 volumes. Of these 2,962 were additions by purchase, 508 gifts, 126 gained by binding periodicals, and 211 brought forward from previous years on account of changes in binding, omissions, etc.

Of the gifts, 257 volumes were received from the United States government, 201 from Mr. Byron Reed and lesser gifts a full list of which will be found in appendix "B."

The class of these accessions is shown by the following table:

Poetry and Drama.....	43
Philosophy, Science and Theology.....	471
Art, Essays and Miscellanies.....	386
History.....	142
Voyages and Travels.....	95
Biography.....	211
Prose Fiction and Juvenile.....	313
Periodicals.....	389
Reference Books.....	138
Unclassified Public Documents.....	177
Duplicates of new and old accessions.....	1238

Worn out books, number 447. Lost and stolen, 6.

Of books lost in previous years, 8 have been recovered.

SUMMARY.

Added.....	3603
Brought forward.....	202
Recovered.....	8
	—3813
Worn out.....	447
Lost and stolen.....	6
	— 453
Net gain.....	3360

We believe that the only vulnerable point in the above is the number of duplicates purchased. Fully ninety per cent of these were in the fiction and juvenile departments. After a year spent in reorganizing the library, we were cognizant to a painful degree of the shabbiness of many of our volumes and the result was their banishment and the necessary purchase of new copies.

We had hoped to counteract this item in our figures by the receipt of nearly two thousand volumes in

science, art and miscellanies; but owing to what seems inexcusable delay in filling our orders, we are obliged to carry them forward to another year. We hope that this question (that of ordering books) will have the favor of your consideration at an early date.

In the purchase of books, we have received substantial aid from the Book Committee, 461 volumes being their personal selections. One hundred and six books were purchased at the request of outside parties, and the remainder, 1156, exclusive of duplicates, were ordered from lists prepared by the librarian.

In a growing western library, even though the librarian has a hobby, the probabilities are that he will have little if any chance to ride it. His diverse duties and the small and inexperienced force at his command, make it impossible to take time for one subject to the detriment of others just as important. He must therefore apportion his time not to suit his personal taste but with a consideration for the welfare of the library. Many orders are therefore made in a theoretical light, and although the results may be and usually are first class books, they are not always what are most desired by practical readers. No one can be an expert in a hundred different subjects, and when a librarian can avail himself of the experience and knowledge of others he should do so and the result will be a library not of books that remain on the shelves but are in constant circulation and fulfilling the aims of a true "peoples university."

We therefore wish to acknowledge our sincere appreciation of the list on Chemistry and the allied sciences

received from Mr. E. M. Bruce; on Law, from Frank Irvine, Esq.; on Philosophy and Theology, from Mr. A. N. Henshaw; on Political and Social Science, from Mr. H. P. Lewis; on French Literature, from Mr. J. P. Metzger; and on Medicine and Surgery, from Dr. J. E. Summers, Jr.

To the latter especially, we are under obligations, not only for the carefully prepared list, but for valuable suggestions as to a practical classification, and for the interest excited among others of the profession.

Very few of the above books have been received, but we hope and expect to have the majority in a few weeks.

CATALOGUES.

The accessions have been classified, shelf-listed and card-catalogued as received, with the exception of about two hundred volumes received the last week in May. In addition to this, cards have been written for twenty five hundred volumes brought over from last year's re-organization. The case now contains thirty four thousand and nineteen cards; a gain of nine thousand one hundred and eighty two over the last report.

It has been decided to publish a supplement to the Finding List in September. This will enable us to include a large order of medical, chemical, mechanical, classical and general scientific and miscellaneous books.

It seems to us that a small part of the book fund could be used to great advantage, in the publication of extra aids for readers. The one most needed, is a special Juvenile catalogue. In the present Finding List juvenile fiction is the only department distinctively for

children. There are no special divisions for their books on travel, history, biography, etc. Is it strange then that there has been no advance in the use of these books? In our previous lists these distinctions were plain and it is to be regretted that a change was made.

We would also suggest that special reference lists, similar to those used in the St. Louis Public Library, be printed. The cost would be slight and we believe more than justified by the quality and quantity of the circulation.

We are under obligations to the Omaha World, Bee and Excelsior for their courtesy in publishing lists of new books. To the first named especially for the weekly lists published during the winter months.

BOOK BORROWERS.

The total number of cards issued to date is 17,720. The entire first series numbering 9,999 has been withdrawn. This leaves 7,721 cards at present in circulation. Of these 3,303 were registered this year. In lieu of city taxes, in addition to furnishing responsible security, non-residents are obliged to pay two dollars per annum.

CIRCULATION.

During the year the circulating department has been open for the delivery of books 304 days; 124,501 books were issued for home use, a gain of 29,013 over the preceding year.

The average daily circulation was 409. The largest number of books issued in one day was 1,185, February 23, 1889; the smallest, 130, October 30, 1888.

The circulation and daily average month by month is shown by the following table:

MONTH	1888-9			1887-8		
	DAYS	CIRCULATION	AVERAGE	DAYS	CIRCULATION	AVERAGE
June.....	26	8313	319	26	6568	253
July	25	8287	331	25	7016	281
August	27	9775	362	27	7024	260
September..	24	8650	360	26	6793	261
October	27	9272	343	26	7509	289
November..	25	9679	387	25	7507	300
December...	25	10523	421	26	7835	301
January.....	26	11836	455	21	7509	358
February...	23	12135	527	22	8829	401
March	26	13223	509	27	10610	392
April.....	24	11438	477	24	8868	369
May	26	11370	437	36	9420	362

The following table shows the quality of the circulation, as compared with other years:

	1888-9	1887-8	1886-7	1885-6
Poetry and Drama.....	1.48	1.6	1.56	1.5
Science and Theology.....	4.19	2.38	3.22	2.2
Art, Essays and Miscellanies..	5.46	3.5	5.68	5.7
History	4.36	3.39	4.28	4.2
Voyages and Travels.....	3.23	2.48	3.67	3.4
Biography.....	1.98	2.03	2.55	2.2
Prose Fiction and Juvenile.....	79.3	84.62	79.04	73.5

It will be seen that there is a perceptible decrease in the use of fiction; the gain being in the departments of art, science, history and travels. While we are glad to register this change and will do all that is consistent in aiding the circulation of the best books, we can congratulate ourselves that this represents, with very few exceptions, the best class of English prose. The library is happily free from the Holmes-Southworth-Evans school of American fiction that constitutes a large proportion of the circulation of many of our public libraries. Unless a novel is undeniably bad or positively "mawkish," it can do little if any harm, unless carried to an extreme. "If we read for amusement only, it is the most innocent of all amusements; a really good novel is instructive as well as amusing, for it teaches us about life; and even a poor novel suggests to an active mind the desire for something better. If it does not, it must be that the mind is so poor that if it were not occupied with the novel it might amuse itself with something worse."

REFERENCE ROOM.

The reference room has been open to the public 356 days during the year. The additions to this department number 138. The patronage is constantly increasing and the general results satisfactory. A very conservative estimate places the number of visitors at 21,360. Observation has shown that each visitor uses on an average two volumes, making a total of 42,726 actual reference books used. In addition to this 8,964 books have been issued from the circulating department for use in this room, making a total of 51,684.

READING ROOM.

The reading room is supplied with 15 dailies, 50 weeklies, 2 fortnightlies, 34 monthlies, 1 bi-monthly, and 6 quarterlies. For a full list, see appendix "A."

This department with the reference room has been open 356 days, only closed on the nine legal holidays of the year. The estimated number of daily visitors is 300. The newspapers and all periodicals kept in binders are free to all. Of the use of these no record can be kept. The magazines are issued from the desk, 6,824 having been used during the year. The books from the circulating department used in this room during the year number 2,988.

RECEIPTS.

From fines	\$ 706.05
From the sale of finding lists	104.75
From the sale of old stove	13.00
From the sale of waste paper .....	.60
From deposits	270.35
	<hr/>
	\$1,094.75

We hope that the Directors will compare these statistics with those of other libraries, and believe that the results of the last year's work will prove satisfactory to them as it has to us.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSIE ALLAN,
Librarian.

		ACCESSIONS	HOME CIRCULATION	CARDS ISSUED	FINES, ETC.
For the year ending May 31, 1879.....					
"	"	—	34,476	992	\$223.65
"	"	886	41,238	760	283.25
"	"	852	36,202	787	263.80
"	"	1,170	44,610	904	326.00
"	"	1,415	54,600	1,162	376.00
"	"	1,184	57,204	1,198	379.05
"	"	2,225	60,907	1,167	438.35
"	"	1,898	80,090	2,025	526.35
"	"	2,613	90,341	2,119	639.90
"	"	2,327	95,488	2,293	658.40
"	"	3,805	124,501	3,303	824.40
"	"	1889.....			

APPENDIX "A"

PERIODICALS IN THE READING ROOM.

DAILY.

Boston Advertiser	New York World
Chicago Times	Omaha Bee (2 copies)
Chicago Tribune	Omaha Dispatch (2 copies)
Cincinnati Enquirer	Omaha Herald (2 copies)
Denver Republican	Omaha Republican (2 cop.)
Kansas City Journal	Philadelphia Times
New York Graphic	St. Louis Globe-Democrat
New York Tribune	

WEEKLY.

American Architect	Medical Record
American Machinist	Midland
American Notes and Queries	Nation
Army and Navy Journal	National City (Cal.) Record
Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution	Nature
British Medical Journal	New Church Messenger
Chemical News	N. Orleans Times-Democrat
Christian Register	New Republic
Critic	Omaha Excelsior
Die Gartenlaube	Omaha Leader
English Notes and Queries	Omaha Mercury
Forest and Stream	Omaha Svenska Posten
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly	Patent Office Gazette
Garden and Forest	Portland, Oregon, Weekly Oregonian
Harper's Bazaar	Publishers Weekly
Harpers' Weekly	Saturday Review
Harpers' Young People	Science
Hartington (Neb.) Herald	Scientific American
Holdrege (Neb.) Citizen	Scientific American Supplement
Journal of United Labor Life	Ueber Land und Meer
Littell's Living Age	Washington Star
London Architect	Western Electrician
London Graphic	Western Presbyterian
London Times	Youth's Companion.
Madison (Neb.) Chronicle	

FORTNIGHTLY.

Literary World

Revue Des Deux Mondes

MONTHLY.

Art Amateur

Magazine of American

American Builder and Wood
Worker

History

Andover Review

Magazine of Art

Atlantic Monthly

Manifesto

Blackwood's Edinburgh
Magazine

National Car and

Locomotive Builder

Century

Nineteenth Century

Christian Metaphysician

North American Review

Contemporary Review

Omaha Clinic

Edinburgh Review

Outing

Education

Popular Science Monthly

English Illustrated

Railroad and Engineering
Journal

Magazine

Scribner's Magazine

Fortnightly Review

St. Nicholas

Forum

Shakespeariana

Harpers' Monthly

Sunday Magazine (English)

Library Journal

Unitarian Review

Lippincott's Magazine

Westminster Review

Literary News

Woman's Tribune

BI-MONTHLY.

Archiv fur Klinische Chirurgie

QUARTERLY.

Co-Operative Index to
Periodicals

Library Notes

Journal of American Folk
Lore

London Quarterly

Mind

Political Science Quarterly

APPENDIX "B"

GIFTS DURING THE YEAR 1888-9.

	VOL- UMES	PAM- PHLETS	NUM- BERS
Allan, Mrs. J. T.....	3	14	21
Ames Free Library.....	.....	1	....
Appleton & Co.....	1	....	....
Astor Library.....	.....	2	....
Ayer, J. C.....	1	....	....
Axline, H. A.....	1	....	....
Baltimore New Mercantile Library.....	.....	1	....
Bangor (Me.) Public Library.....	.....	2	....
Battin, J. M.....	1	....	....
Bigelow Free Public Library.....	.....	1	....
Birchard Library.....	.....	1	....
Boston Children's Hospital.....	.....	1	....
Boston Public Library.....	1	....	....
Bradlee, C. D.....	1	....	....
Brooklyn Library.....	.....	3	....
Burton, G. W.....	1	....	....
Butterfield, C. W.....	4	....	....
Chapin, Mrs. E. N.....	1	....	....
Chase, Clement.....	.....	3	....
Chelsea Public Library.....	.....	1	....
Chicago Public Library.....	.....	2	....
Cincinnati Public Library.....	1	....	....
Cleveland Public Library.....	.....	1	....
Columbia College Library.....	.....	2	....
Cooley, T. M.....	1	....	....
Dodge, General.....	.....	1	....
Dover Public Library.....	.....	1	....
Duryea, J. T.....	1	....	....
Dyer, G. M.....	1	....	....
Edgar, Mrs. F. R.....	1	....	....
Enoch Pratt Free Library.....	.....	4	....
Ewing, T.....	.....	1	....
Fletcher Free Library.....	.....	1	....
Grand Rapids Public Library.....	.....	1	....
Hartford Library Association.....	.....	1	....
Hartford Theological Seminary.....	.....	3	....
Huidekoper, Frederic.....	2	....	....
Houghton, Mifflin & Co.....	10	....	....
Hussey, C. G.....	1	....	....

	VOL- UMES	PAM- PHLETS	NUM- BERS
Indiana State Library.....	.....	1	....
Indianapolis Public Library.....	2	13	....
James, Mrs. H. M.....	1	....	....
Julian, G. W.....	1	....	....
Kansas State Historical Society.....	.....	1	....
Kean, S. A.....	1	....	....
Kilpatrick, Thomas.....	1	....	....
Kountze, Herman.....	.....	....	26
Lancaster Public Library.....	.....	2	....
Lentz, Miss E.....	1	....	....
Lincoln Public Library.....	.....	1	....
Lowell City Library.....	.....	1	....
Lynn Public Library.....	.....	1	....
Marsh, L. B.....	1	....	....
McFadden, Mrs. Cornelia.....	1	....	....
Milwaukee Public Library.....	.....	9	....
Morse Institute.....	.....	1	....
New Bedford Free Public Library.....	.....	2	....
New York Free Public Library.....	.....	1	....
N. Y. Mechanic's and Tradesmen's Society..	.....	1	....
New York Mercantile Library Association.....	.....	1	....
Newberry Library.....	.....	1	....
Omaha Board of Trade.....	.....	1	....
Peabody Institute.....	.....	1	....
Peele, W. A.....	1	....	....
Philadelphia Library Company.....	.....	3	....
Philadelphia Mercantile Library.....	.....	1	....
Philadelphia Woman's Medical College....	.....	1	....
Providence Public Library.....	.....	1	....
Publisher's Weekly.....	1	....	....
Reed, Byron.....	201	....	....
Reynold's Library.....	.....	1	....
Royal Society of Canada.....	1	....	....
San Francisco Free Public Library.....	.....	1	....
Somerville Public Library.....	.....	1	....
St. Louis Mercantile Library Association...	2	2	....
St. Louis Public Library.....	1	3	....
Stebbins, Dr. R.....	5	1	....
Thomas Crane Library.....	.....	1	....
Toronto Public Library.....	.....	2	....
Tuft's Library.....	.....	1	....
Washington, D. C.....	257	30	....
Welch, E.....	2	....	....
Worcester Free Public Library.....	.....	1	....

STATE OF NEBRASKA, }
DOUGLAS COUNTY. } ss.

*James W. Savage, President of the Board of Directors
of the Omaha Public Library, being duly sworn, says
that the foregoing report is true as he verily believes.*

JAS. W. SAVAGE.

*Signed in my presence and sworn to
before me this first day of July,
1889.*

{ NOTARIAL
SEAL }

HERBERT J. DAVIS,
Notary Public.







OMAHA
PUBLIC · LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT
1890.





OMAHA
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT
1890.

REES PRINTING COMPANY
PRINTERS, LITHOGRAPHERS AND BINDERS
11TH & HOWARD STREETS, OMAHA

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE

1202

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOR THE

Year Ending May 31st, 1890.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA:
PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS,
1518 FARNAM ST. L. J.

REPORT OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE.

HON. JAMES W. SAVAGE,

President of the Public Library Board.

SIR:

The following statement shows the number of accessions to the Omaha Public Library during the year ending June 1st, 1890:

Prose Fiction.....	268
Juvenile Fiction.....	55
Poetry and Drama.....	140
Essays, Miscellanies and Polygraphy.....	498
Ancient Classics.....	65
Biography.....	229
History.....	371
Voyages and Travels.....	152
Natural History and Natural Science.....	154
Industrial Arts.....	137
Fine Arts.....	78
Medicine and Hygiene.....	146
Philosophy.....	37
Language and Education.....	63
Political and Social Science.....	88
Law.....	88
Religion and Theology.....	266
Periodicals.....	107
Reference Books.....	91
United States Documents.....	130
Duplicates.....	1505

The total number of volumes added by purchase, under the supervision of the book committee, is 4,385. Twenty new periodicals have been received in the reading room.

The committee has suffered a severe loss in the resignation from the Board of Mr. John Wilson. The scientific departments have, for a number of years, been in Mr. Wilson's hands, and he has collected a large number of valuable works. It has been his custom to place bulletins of the new books in the Union Pacific shops, and in this way he has brought into relations with the library a most desirable class of readers.

The department of English Prose Fiction constitutes at present 18 per cent. of the library. For a number of years the poorer fiction, as it has worn out, has been dropped from the catalogue. At the same time, careful scrutiny of new fiction orders has allowed nothing poor to pass, while the best current publications have been constantly supplied. By this means the character of the department has steadily and greatly improved. Five hundred and eighty-one worn out books were reported by the librarian this season, a large proportion being fiction. This offered fresh opportunity for the weeding-out process, and the department shows special gain in quality during the current year. The library patrons seem satisfied and the fiction average, both juvenile and adult, represents a much better kind of reading than that of five years ago.

It seems, however, a pity that the general public should confine its interest to so small a portion of the books. English Prose Fiction makes 18 per cent. of the library, the Juvenile Fiction adds 7 per cent., but the fiction readers make 78 per cent. of the patronage. The sum spent in fiction each year is trifling compared with the aggregate expenditure in other departments. The committee meets the reasonable demand for current

books, but its most useful effort is in the departments of History, Fine Art, Biography, Classics, Industrial Art, Natural Science, Political Economy and Social Science. All these and others are growing year after year through the addition of the best standard and recent books.

The most notable order of this season is founded on the last edition of the Manual of Historical Literature, by Charles Kendall Adams, President of Cornell University. This order makes the Historical department a somewhat remarkable one for so young a library. It includes the best and most recent works in the following classes: Universal Histories, Histories of Civilization and Progress, works on the Philosophy of History, Histories of Antiquity, Histories of the Middle Ages and Histories of Modern Times.

Probably the library lacks appreciation from students because it is so poorly housed, and the public will not realize the value of this collection of books until it is placed in a library building.

Very respectfully,

ELIZABETH E. POPPLETON,

For the Book Committee.



REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

HON. JAMES W. SAVAGE,

President of the Public Library Board.

SIR:

The following statement shows the amount of money expended for the maintenance of the Public Library and Reading Rooms for the year ending June 1st, 1890:

BOOK ACCOUNT.

For Books Purchased.....	\$6,422 77	
For Periodicals.....	446 60	
For Binding and Re-binding.....	644 62	
For Insurance.....	128 00	
	—————	\$ 7,641 99

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Rent.....	\$2,325 00	
Gas.....	454 02	
Furniture and Improvements.....	406 28	
Janitor.....	328 15	
	—————	\$ 3,513 45

SALARY ACCOUNT.

Librarian and Assistants.....	\$ 3,572 50
-------------------------------	-------------

SUPPLY ACCOUNT.

Printing, Stationery and Postage.....	\$ 530 08	
Ice, Matches, Brooms, etc.....	66 00	
Miscellaneous.....	11 25	
	—————	\$ 607 33

Total.....\$ 15,335 27

Very respectfully,

LEWIS S. REED,

OMAHA, June 10th, 1890.

Secretary.

EXPENDITURES OF FORMER YEARS.

	BOOK ACCOUNT	BUILDING ACCOUNT	SALARY ACCOUNT	SUPPLY ACCOUNT	TOTAL
For fractional year ending June 1st, 1878.....	\$ 186 93	\$ 627 48	\$ 375 25	\$ 54 80	\$ 1244 46
For year ending June 1st, 1879.....	1342 95	467 95	563 15	94 90	2468 95
" " 1880.....	1283 98	446 77	676 00	137 45	2544 20
" " 1881.....	1047 28	812 56	755 00	84 00	2698 84
" " 1882.....	1432 38	775 46	920 00	127 55	3255 39
" " 1883.....	1903 83	860 81	1080 00	121 80	3966 44
" " 1884.....	2041 02	1446 83	1260 00	125 65	4873 50
" " 1885.....	4495 22	1586 36	1789 20	507 85	8378 63
" " 1886.....	3805 56	1867 85	2142 26	257 99	8073 66
" " 1887.....	4616 37	2006 91	2522 05	353 52	9498 85
" " 1888.....	4283 32	3739 90	4761 83	1140 93	13925 98
" " 1889.....	5656 28	3353 97	3153 99	352 64	12516 88
" " 1890.....	7641 99	3513 45	3572 50	607 33	15335 27
				and	19999 51

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, June 1, 1890.

To the Board of Directors, Omaha Public Library:

The Thirteenth Annual Report, giving the operations of the Omaha Public Library for the year beginning June 1, 1889, is herewith submitted.

BOOKS.

The present number of entries in the accession catalogue is 27,650. Of this number 4,668 were added during the year; 4,385 being accessions by purchase, 210 gifts, 63 by binding periodicals, and 10 brought forward from previous years.

In September, 1889, the library of the late O. F. Davis was bought for the sum of \$450.00. Five hundred and four volumes were retained and the remainder, 329, was sold to the Kearney library for \$100.00.

Besides new accessions gained by this purchase, we were enabled to duplicate many of our best books in the departments of history and travel at a cost of about 10 per cent. of the retail price.

Among prominent purchases of the year may be mentioned Binion's Ancient Egypt, or Mizraim, Crowe and Cavacaselle's New History of Painting in Italy, Boswell's Life of Johnson, edition De Luxe, Pennell's Pen Drawing and Pen Draughtsmen, Mueller's Sacred Books of the East and Champlin's Cyclopædia of Music and Musicians.

The class of accessions is shown by the following:

Prose Fiction.....	268
Juvenile Fiction.....	55
Poetry and Drama.....	140
Essays, Miscellanies and Polygraphy.....	498
Ancient Classics.....	65
Biography.....	229
History.....	371
Voyages and Travels.....	152
Natural History and Natural Science.....	154
Industrial Arts.....	137
Fine Arts.....	78
Medicine and Hygiene.....	146
Philosophy.....	37
Language and Education.....	63
Political and Social Science.....	88
Law.....	88
Religion and Theology.....	266
Periodicals.....	107
Reference Books.....	91
United States Documents, (unclassified).....	130
Duplicates.....	1505

Worn out books number 581, condemned 2, lost 5, stolen 1.

SUMMARY.

Added.....	4658	
Brought forward.....	10	
Recovered, (previously reported lost).....	1	
	<hr/>	4669
Worn out.....	581	
Lost and stolen.....	6	
Condemned, (on account of contagious disease)	2	
	<hr/>	589
Net gain.....		<hr/> 4080

CATALOGUES.

Most of the accessions have been classified, shelf-listed, and card-catalogued as received. Eight thousand and seventy-one cards have been written, making a total of 42,090 cards in the case.

A classified supplement of forty-eight pages and containing 1,963 title entries was published in October.

Accessions subsequent to this date are posted on type-written bulletins.

BOOK BORROWERS.

The number of readers registered in the year is 3,026, a large percentage being the re-issue of cards under new registrations.

CIRCULATION.

During the year the circulating department has been open 305 days; 145,601 books have been issued for home use, giving an average daily circulation of 477.

The largest number issued in one day was 1,113, March 29, 1890; the smallest, 233, September 5, 1889.

The circulation and daily average month by month as compared with the preceding year is shown by following table:

MONTH.	1888-9.			1889-90.		
	DAYS	CIRCULATION	AVERAGE	DAYS	CIRCULATION	AVERAGE
June.....	26	8313	319	25	10194	407
July.....	25	8287	331	26	11317	431
August.....	27	9775	362	27	11921	442
September.....	24	8650	360	24	9708	405
October.....	27	9272	343	27	10905	404
November.....	25	9679	387	25	12210	488
December.....	25	10523	421	25	11752	470
January.....	26	11836	455	27	13566	522
February.....	23	12135	527	24	13002	560
March.....	26	13223	509	26	15444	594
April.....	24	11438	477	26	13207	528
May.....	26	11370	437	27	12375	476

The classification of circulation is given below :

English Prose Fiction—Juvenile Fiction.....	78.9
Foreign Languages.....	.4
Biography.....	1.9
Travels.....	3.0
History.....	4.2
Essays and Miscellanies.....	2.7
Ancient Classics.....	.3
Industrial and Fine Arts.....	2.3
Natural History and Natural Science.....	1.6
Medicine and Hygiene.....	.6
Political and Social Science and Law.....	.8
Religion and Theology.....	.9
Philosophy and Education.....	.8
Poetry.....	1.6

These figures are about the same as those of last year. The use of English prose fiction and juveniles having decreased only four-tenths per cent. We believe that the number of books used in these departments will not be materially changed until a catalogue of books for the young is published.

Of the books taken from the library about 30 per cent. are drawn by the children, ten years being the minimum age. Generally speaking 25 per cent. confine themselves to the use of fiction.

Pupils from the schools visit the library just after the close of the last session, making this the busiest hour of the day. Unless a special subject is desired, the attendants are too hurried to volunteer assistance and the result is that a large number confine themselves to the books most easily found. With a juvenile catalogue and a little assistance from the teachers we are confident that the fiction in this department could be decreased fully seven per cent. during the first year.

REFERENCE ROOM.

The reference room has been open to the public 357 days. The accessions number 91, making a library of nearly 800 strictly reference books on open shelves and perfectly accessible. In addition to these 10,680 books have been issued from the circulating department for use in this room.

READING ROOM.

The reading-room is supplied with 133 periodicals, classed according to publication as follows: daily 15, weekly 62, fortnightly 3, quarterly 7, annual 1.

Of these 5 are devoted to fine arts, 10 to industrial arts, 8 to natural science, 7 to medicine and pharmacy.

One is in the French language, 5 in German and 1 in Swedish. Twenty-seven are gifts. Twenty periodicals have been added during the past year.

After their use in the reading-room, 80 periodicals are bound and transferred to the circulating department.

In this way, from year to year, the library is forming a valuable fund of literature which, experience has shown, is indispensable to research in subjects requiring modern ideas and theories, and one which appeals to the intelligence of all classes.

RECEIPTS.

From fines.....	\$890 00
From catalogues.....	83 40
From books.....	100 00
Total.....	<hr/> \$1,073 40

Four book stacks, having a shelving capacity of sixty-five hundred books, have just been placed in position. Fully half of this space is required to relieve over-crowded shelves. With the large outstanding orders for historical works and bound periodicals, the remaining space will be filled within a very few months, and future accessions will be shelved only with great difficulty. This year's growth, and the very bright prospects for the coming year, make the question of space one of great import to the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSIE ALLAN,

Librarian.

		ACCESSIONS	HOME CIR- CULATION	CARDS ISSUED	FINES, ETC
For the year ending May 31, 1879.....		.....	34,476	992	\$ 223 65
" " " 1880.....		886	41,238	760	283 25
" " " 1881.....		852	36,202	787	263 80
" " " 1882.....		1,170	44,610	904	326 00
" " " 1883.....		1,415	54,600	1,162	376 00
" " " 1884.....		1,184	57,204	1,198	379 05
" " " 1885.....		2,225	60,907	1,167	438 35
" " " 1886.....		1,898	80,090	2,025	526 35
" " " 1887.....		2,613	90,341	2,119	639 90
" " " 1888.....		2,327	95,488	2,293	658 40
" " " 1889.....		3,805	124,501	3,303	824 40
" " " 1890.....		4,668	145,601	3,026	1073 40

LIST OF CURRENT PERIODICALS IN THE READING-ROOM.

American Anthropologist	Washington,	Quarterly.
American Archæologist,	Boston,	Quarterly.
American Architect and Building News,	Boston,	Weekly.
American Builder and Wood Worker,	New York,	Monthly.
American Chemical Journal,	Baltimore,	Monthly.
American Machinist,	New York,	Weekly.
American Notes and Queries,	Philadelphia,	Weekly.
American Sentinel,	New York,	Weekly.
Andover Review,	Boston,	Monthly.
Archiv für Klinische Chirurgie,	Berlin,	Bi-Monthly.
Army and Navy Journal,	New York,	Weekly.
Art Amateur,	New York,	Monthly.
Athenæum,	London,	Weekly.
Atlanta Constitution,	Georgia,	Weekly.
Atlantic Monthly,	Boston,	Monthly.
Blackwood's Magazine,	Edinburgh,	Monthly.
Boston Advertiser,	Boston,	Daily.
Boston Library Bulletins,	Boston,	Quarterly.
British Medical Journal,	London,	Weekly.
Central West,	Omaha,	Weekly.
Century,	New York,	Monthly.
Chemical News,	London,	Weekly.
Chicago Times,	Chicago,	Daily.
Chicago Tribune,	Chicago,	Daily.
Christian Register,	Boston,	Weekly.
Cincinnati Enquirer,	Cincinnati,	Daily.
Contemporary Review,	London,	Monthly.
Co-operative Index to Periodicals.	New York,	Annual.
Critic,	New York,	Weekly.
Denver Republican,	Denver,	Daily.
Die Gartenlaube.	Leipzig,	Weekly.
Edinburgh Review,	London,	Quarterly.
Education,	Boston,	Monthly.
Electrical World,	New York,	Weekly.

Engineer,	London,	Weekly.
English Illustrated Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.
English Notes and Queries,	London,	Weekly.
Fairhaven Herald,	Fairhaven, Washington,	Daily.
Forest and Stream,	New York,	Weekly.
Fortnightly Review,	London,	Monthly.
Forum,	New York,	Monthly.
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.	New York,	Weekly.
Garden and Forest,	New York,	Weekly.
Harper's Bazar,	New York,	Weekly.
Harper's Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.
Harper's Weekly,	New York,	Weekly.
Harper's Young People,	New York,	Weekly.
Holdredge Citizen,	Holdredge, Neb.,	Weekly.
Humane Journal,	Chicago,	Monthly.
Journal of American Folk Lore.	Boston,	Quarterly.
Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry,	London,	Monthly.
Journal of United Labor,	Philadelphia,	Weekly.
Kansas City Journal,	Kansas City, Mo.,	Daily.
Library Journal,	New York,	Monthly.
Life,	New York,	Weekly.
Lippincott's Magazine,	Philadelphia,	Monthly.
Literary World,	Boston,	Fortnightly.
Littell's Living Age,	Boston,	Weekly.
London Architect,	London,	Weekly.
London Graphic,	London,	Weekly.
London Quarterly Review,	London,	Quarterly.
London Times,	London,	Weekly.
Madison Chronicle,	Madison, Neb.,	Weekly.
Magazine of American History,	New York,	Monthly.
Magazine of Art,	London,	Monthly.
Medical Record,	New York,	Weekly.
Medical and Surgical Record,	Omaha,	Bi-Monthly.
Midland,	Omaha,	Weekly.
Mind,	London,	Quarterly.
Nation,	New York,	Weekly.

National Car and Locomotive

Builder,	New York,	Monthly.
National City Record,	National City, Cal.,	Weekly.
Nature,	London,	Weekly.
Nebraska Tribune,	Omaha,	Weekly.
New Church Messenger,	New York,	Weekly.
New York Tribune,	New York,	Daily.
New York World,	New York,	Daily.
New Orleans Times-Democrat	New Orleans,	Weekly.
Nineteenth Century,	London,	Monthly.
Norfolk Herald,	Norfolk, Neb.,	Weekly.
Omaha Bee,	Omaha,	Daily.
Omaha Clinic,	Omaha,	Monthly.
Omaha Druggist,	Omaha,	Monthly.
Omaha Excelsior,	Omaha,	Weekly.
Omaha Leader,	Omaha,	Weekly.
Omaha Mercury,	Omaha,	Weekly.
Omaha Republican,	Omaha,	Daily.
Omaha Svenska Posten,	Omaha,	Weekly.
Omaha World-Herald,	Omaha,	Daily.
Outing,	New York,	Monthly.
Patent Office Gazette,	Washington,	Weekly.
Path,	New York,	Monthly.
Philadelphia Times,	Philadelphia,	Daily.
Political Science Quarterly,	New York,	Quarterly.
Popular Science Monthly,	New York,	Monthly.
Portfolio,	London,	Monthly.
Railroad and Engineering Journal,	New York,	Monthly.
Revue Des Deux Mondes,	Paris,	Fortnightly.
St. Joseph Medical Record,	St. Joseph, Mo.,	Monthly.
St. Louis Globe-Democrat,	St. Louis,	Daily.
St. Nicholas,	New York,	Monthly.
San Francisco Chronicle,	San Francisco,	Daily.
Saturday Review,	London,	Weekly.
Science,	Cambridge,	Weekly.
Scientific American,	New York,	Weekly.
Scientific American Supple- ment,	New York,	Weekly.
Scribner's Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.

espeariana,	New York,	Quarterly.
s of the Times,	London,	Weekly.
ay Magazine,		Monthly.
nology Architectural Re-		
w,	Boston,	Monthly.
r Land und Meer,	Stuttgart,	Weekly.
urian Review,	Boston,	Monthly.
ington Star,	Washington,D.C	Weekly.
ern Electrician,	Chicago,	Weekly.
licher Courier,	Omaha,	Weekly.
minster Review,	London,	Monthly.
Shore,	Portland, Ore.,	Weekly.
Awake,	Boston,	Monthly.
ens' Tribune,	Washington,D.C	Monthly.
hs' Companion,	Boston,	Weekly.

LIST OF DONORS.

	VOL- UMES	PAM- PHLETS	NUM- BERS
, Miss Jessie.....	1	....	....
, Mrs. J. T.....	4	10	12
ican Unitarian Association.....	.....	1	....
erst College.....	.....	1	....
r Library.....	.....	1	....
more New Mercantile Library.....	.....	1	....
or Public Library.....	.....	1	....
n, Mott.....	1	....	....
gs, J. S.....	7	....	....
on Public Library.....	2	2	....
ke, J. G.....	.....	7	....
en, H. D.....	.....	1	....
g, W. L.....	1	....	....
geport, (Conn.) Public Library.....	.....	1	....
kline (Mass.) Public Library.....	.....	1	....
klyn Library.....	.....	1	....
klyn, Pratt Institute.....	.....	1	....
n, Miss M. B.....	.....	1	....
mer, D.....	7	....	....
ngton, (Vt.) Fletcher Free Public Library.....	.....	1	....

	VOL- UMES	PAM- PHLETS	NUM- BERS
Central Pacific Railway Company.....	1	....	....
Channing Club.....	....	1	....
Chicago Centennial Executive Committee.....	1	....	....
Chicago Public Library.....	....	14	....
Children's Hospital, Boston.....	....	1	....
Cincinnati Public Library.....	....	1	....
Cleburne, Mrs. William.....	....	....	21
Cleveland Public Library.....	....	2	....
Cox, Mrs. ....	....	....	50
Crane, (Thomas) Library.....	....	1	....
Creighton College.....	....	2	....
Crerar, John, Estate of.....	....	1	....
Dalton, J. G.....	1	....	....
Denise, J. C.....	1	....	2
Detroit Public Library.....	....	2	....
Dover, N. H., Public Library.....	....	1	....
Eaton, N. H.....	....	1	....
Enoch Pratt Free Library.....	....	1	....
Gaylord, Mrs. M. and Ralph E.....	1	....	....
Grand Rapids Public Library.....	1	1	....
Green, S. S.....	1	....	....
Hartford Theological Seminary.....	....	3	....
Hennecke (Charles) Company, The.....	1	....	....
Hoover, H. W.....	2	....	....
Jewett, Mrs. J. J. L. C.....	3	....	....
Kennedy, B. E. B.....	9	2	....
Lancaster, (Mass.) Town Library.....	....	1	....
List, N. A.....	1	....	....
Los Angeles Public Library.....	....	1	....
Massachusetts Club.....	....	1	....
McFadden, Mrs.....	1	....	....
Miller, C. F.....	3	....	....
Miller, Mrs. M. L.....	1	....	....
Milroy, W. F.....	....	1	....
Milwaukee Public Library.....	....	1	....
Minneapolis Public Library.....	....	3	....
Natick, (Mass.) Morse Institute.....	....	1	....
Newark Free Public Library.....	....	1	....

	VOL- UMES	PAM- PHLETS	NUM- BERS
Newberry Library.....	.....	1	.....
New England Historical Genealogical Society. ....	.....	1	.....
New York Academy of Medicine.....	.....	2	.....
New York Maimonides Library.....	.....	2	.....
Omaha Board of Trade.....	.....	1	.....
Omaha City Comptroller.....	2	.....	.....
Orff, F. C.....	2	.....	.....
Paris Universal Exposition.....	1	.....	.....
Peabody Institute, Danvers, Mass.....	.....	1	.....
Peele, W. A.....	1	.....	.....
Philadelphia Mercantile Library Company.....	.....	1	.....
Poore Brothers.....	3	.....	.....
Pope, F. L.....	1	.....	.....
Providence, Rhode Island, Public Library.....	.....	1	.....
Rohrer, M. F.....	.....	1	.....
Royal Society of Canada.....	1	.....	.....
Rusk, J. M.....	1	.....	.....
St. Louis Mercantile Library.....	.....	1	.....
St. Paul Public Library.....	.....	2	.....
Salem, (Mass.) Public Library.....	.....	2	.....
San Francisco Free Public Library.....	.....	1	.....
San Francisco Mercantile Library Ass'n.....	.....	1	.....
Sayles, L. B.....	.....	1	.....
Somerville, (Mass.) Public Library.....	.....	1	.....
Springfield, (Mass.) City Library Association.....	.....	1	.....
Summers, Dr. J. E., Jr.....	5	1	.....
Sweesy, William.....	2	.....	.....
Taunton, (Mass.) Public Library.....	.....	1	.....
Thwaites, R. G.....	.....	1	.....
Toronto Public Library.....	.....	1	.....
Tuft's Library.....	.....	2	.....
Unknown.....	5	.....	.....
Wallace, Mrs. W.....	.....	.....	45
Washington.....	163	.....	.....
Wisconsin State Historical Society.....	.....	1	.....
Woodruff, W.....	1	.....	.....
Wright, C. D.....	1	.....	.....
Yale University.....	.....	1	.....

STATE OF NEBRASKA, }
DOUGLAS COUNTY. } ss.

*Wm. Wallace, Vice-President of the Board of Directors
of the Omaha Public Library, being duly sworn, says that
the foregoing report is true as he verily believes.*

WM. WALLACE.

*Signed in my presence and sworn to be-
fore me this first day of July, 1890.*

{ NOTARIAL
SEAL. }

FRANK GRAHAM,
Notary Public.





THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1891.



OMAHA:
PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS
PAXTON BLDG. 1518 FARNAM ST.

REES PRINTING COMPANY
PRINTERS, LITHOGRAPHERS AND BINDERS
11TH & HOWARD STREETS, OMAHA.

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

VICE-PRESIDENT,
WILLIAM WALLACE.

SECRETARY,
LEWIS S. REED.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Term Expires July 1st, 1892.

WILLIAM WALLACE.
P. L. PERINE.
LEWIS S. REED.

Term Expires July 1st, 1893.

CLAIRE RUSTIN MCINTOSH.
ANDREW J. POPPLETON.
THOS. K. SUDBOROUGH.

Term Expires July 1st, 1894.

ELIZABETH E. POPPLETON.
ELIJAH DUNN.
WILLIAM S. CURTIS.

COMMITTEES.

Executive—Directors WALLACE, DUNN, PERINE AND SUDBOROUGH.

Book—Directors E. E. POPPLETON, MCINTOSH AND CURTIS.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

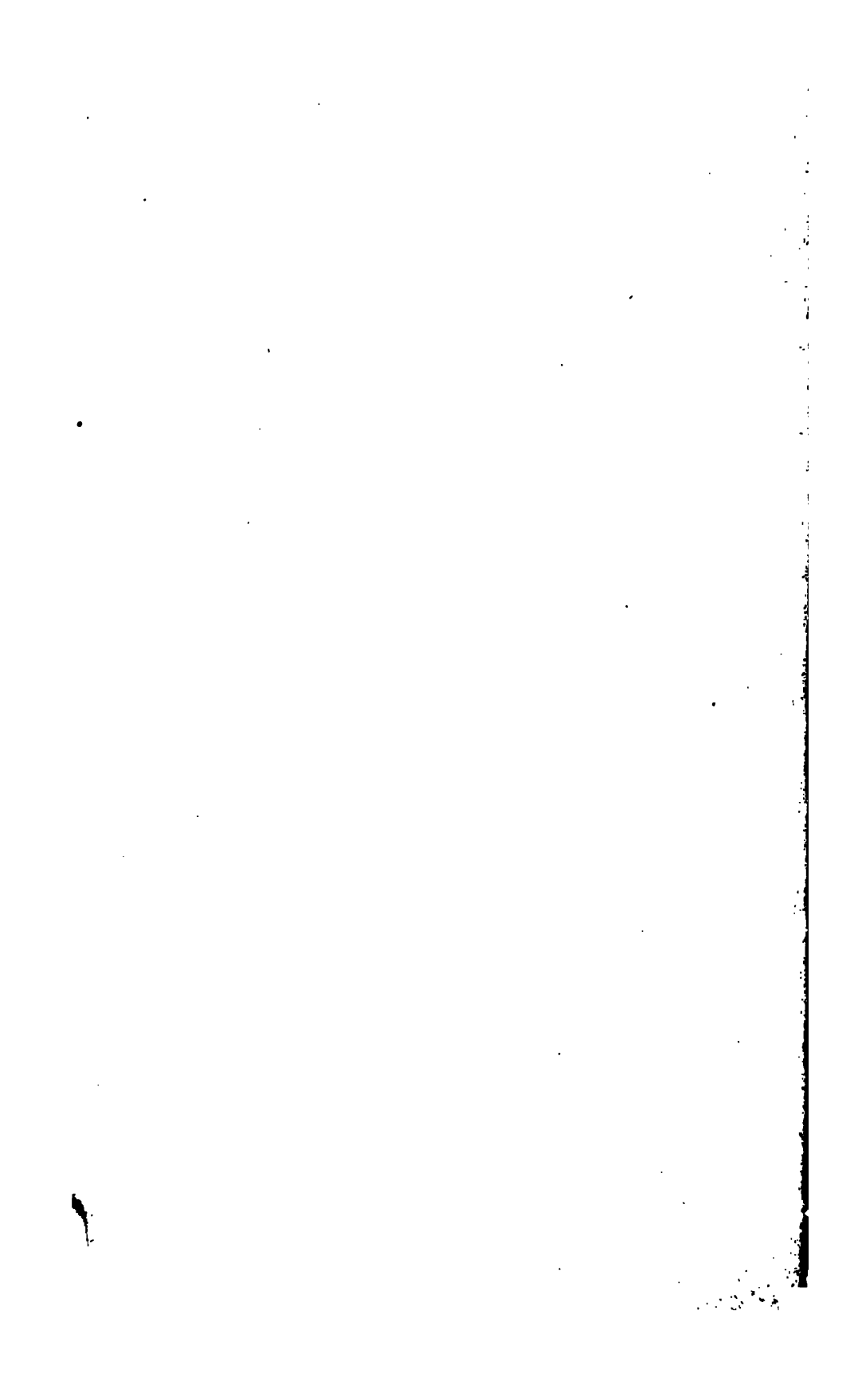
LIBRARIAN,
JESSIE ALLAN.

ASSISTANTS,

MARGARET A. O'BRIEN.
EDITH TOBITT.

BLANCHE A. ALLAN.
THEODORA M. BURSTALL.

META MUNNECKE.



To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of Omaha:

The Directors of the Public Library, in submitting their fourteenth annual report, desire to congratulate the City upon the prospect (almost an assured fact) that a separate building for the use of the Library is within reach.

More space for books and for reading and reference rooms has been greatly needed for several years.

To call the attention of your Honorable Body to former suggestions and requests of the Board, the following quotations are made.

In the Ninth Annual Report of the Directors of the Omaha Public Library, the late Judge Savage, President of the Board, used this language:

"To supply our rapidly increasing population with reading matter we need more room, more help in the Library, a card catalogue, more books, more pamphlets, more newspapers and more money.

"The councils of former years have uniformly, as official bodies, evinced a high appreciation of the importance of this factor in a good city government. We presume that this interest will not now be withheld. But we ask, in addition, personal visits from its members, criticisms upon our work and upon the conduct of our business, and that familiarity with our rooms which, we believe, cannot fail to lead to renewed interest in our success.

"The same invitation is extended to business and wealthy men generally. When some rich and generous citizen, who has seen his bit of prairie growing into a fabulous value and covered with temples of commerce, shall realize that he can pay the debt that he owes to Omaha in no better way than by erecting a building for her books, the real work and usefulness of the library will commence."

In their Tenth Annual Report the need of a building is set forth in the following language:

"The Board is of the opinion that if the Library is to maintain any fair place among kindred establishments a detached building, fireproof, large enough to accommodate five or six times our present number of books, with provisions for rooms, to be devoted to other purposes, and capable of indefinite expansion, will be absolutely necessary."

In their Eleventh Annual Report expression is given to the same opinion in the following language:

"These apartments will probably afford necessary accommodation for a year or two longer, when, should the new City Hall be completed upon the plans proposed, it may be hoped that the institution may find as permanent quarters as it can hope for until the long wished for time when private munificence or a public sense of duty shall furnish for our books a structure which shall be at once a credit to our city and an attraction to our citizens."

In their Twelfth Annual Report the subject is again referred to in the following language:

"It is hoped that in some degree these requirements may be met by the quarters to be furnished in the new City Hall. The committee of your body charged with the duty of assigning such quarters have given to the Library about the same area as it at present occupies. While if the new edifice is completed within the next two years this space may be for a time sufficient, we foresee that the period is rapidly approaching when a structure solely devoted to Library purposes will be imperatively called for. This has been the burden of our reports for several years past."

And, again, in the Thirteenth Annual Report (1890) the same subject is alluded to in these words:

"Probably the Library lacks appreciation from students because it is so poorly housed and the public will not realize the value of this collection of books until it is placed in a Library building."

Some weeks ago a committee was appointed on the part of the council to confer with the Library Board with a view of devising some plan for a separate Library building. Since the appointment of that committee the necessity of such a building has been more and more impressed upon the Board by the evident inadequacy of the new City Hall to supply adequate quarters for the Library for any great length of time.

The recent bequest of Mr. Byron Reed, one of our oldest and wealthiest citizens, seems to realize the hope of Judge Savage expressed six years ago. By his will he bequeaths to the city his library and collection of manuscripts and coins, and also a lot situated upon the corner of Nineteenth and Harney streets, of a superficial area of 8,301.3 feet, being nearly equal to the area of a full sized city lot 66 by 132 feet.

The sole conditions of this bequest may be briefly stated thus:

That the city shall accept the bequest, subject to the following conditions:

1. "That said city erect a first-class fireproof building thereon, cover-

ing the whole of said lot, and at least four stories high, suitable for a Public Library or Art Gallery; the erection of the building to be commenced within one year from the date this will is admitted to probate, and to progress so far as to be under roof within two years after it is commenced."

2. "As soon as said building is enclosed the Trustee, A. L. Reed, is directed to execute and deliver to the city a deed for said lot, conditioned, however, that said premises shall ever be used for the benefit of the public as a Public Library or Art Gallery, and for such purposes as may be necessary or incidental thereto. The management of said institution shall be conducted and directed by said City of Omaha, and shall be wholly in the interest and for the benefit of the public."

Other minor conditions are attached to the bequest of library, manuscript, coins, etc., not necessary to be repeated here—all of them reasonable and easily complied with.

This bequest, however, by the will, was conditioned upon its acceptance by the widow of the deceased.

Lest the failure of such acceptance should jeopardize this public bequest, the widow and all the heirs have joined in a conveyance of this property, in trust, for the uses and purposes designated in the will, thus assuring the bequest, beyond controversy, to the city.

Suitable and ample ground, therefore, may be regarded as practically acquired for a Library building adequate to the needs of the Library and suitable to its expansive growth.

There remains only the question of compliance with the terms of the will by securing the necessary amount to assure the erection of a building such as therein required.

It is believed by the Directors of the Library that additional ground is, if not necessary, exceedingly desirable, especially additional frontage on Harney street.

Three of the Directors have joined in the purchase of a parcel of land fronting fifty feet on Harney street, and adjoining this bequest on the east and extending back the same depth as the land devised by Mr. Reed. This is to be held and conveyed at cost to the city if it decides to enlarge the site devised.

It is believed by the Board that \$150,000 will fully, amply, and substantially comply with the terms of the will, and also purchase said fifty foot lot, and the Board unhesitatingly recommend that at the next November election a proposition be submitted to the voters of the city for the issue of \$150,000 of bonds, the proceeds thereof to be devoted to the purpose mentioned.

The lot devised is of an estimated value of about \$40,000, and the collection bequeathed to the city is valued, by experts, at \$50,000.

The Board respectfully urge the necessary action on the part of the City Council without delay, so that there may be no possible failure in the submission at the next election of the proposition for the issue of bonds sufficient to purchase the additional ground and insure the erection of the building in compliance with the terms of the bequest.

The Board is advised that the power to issue bonds is undoubted, and that as yet there is no limitation upon this power that will interfere with the issue of the amount stated.

With prompt and energetic action and a hearty co-operation in all the departments of the City Government, your Board believes that the bonds can be voted, issued and sold and the work of construction proceeded with so rapidly that the Library building can be completed for occupancy before the close of 1892.

The report of the Book Committee, and the Secretary's and Librarian's report appended, contain the information required by statute. A careful reading and comparison with former reports is desired by the Directors.

The Board renews the invitation heretofore extended members of the Council to visit the rooms and become acquainted with the business and work of the Directors and the Librarians. Those who have not been in the Library can have but an imperfect idea of the advantages offered to readers and students.

A severe loss was suffered in November last in the death of Hon. James W. Savage, for many years President of the Board. His enlightened and enthusiastic interest in Library work was fully appreciated in Omaha and recognized in literary circles throughout our country.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

By order of the Board,

LEWIS S. REED,

Secretary.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

To the President of the Public Library Board:

SIR: The following statement shows the amount of money expended for the maintenance of the Public Library and Reading Rooms for the year ending May 31st, 1891:

BOOK ACCOUNT.

For books purchased and freight	\$10,870
Periodicals	499 20
Binding	1,019 27
Insurance	104
	\$12,492 47

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Rent	\$ 2,100
Gas	408 30
Furniture and improvements	780 39
Janitor service	345 25
	\$ 3,633 94

SALARY ACCOUNT.

Librarian and assistants	\$ 4,240 73
	\$ 4,240 73

SUPPLY ACCOUNT.

Printing, stationery, etc	\$ 524 58
Ice, matches, brooms, etc	72 81
Miscellaneous	7 20
	\$ 604 59
Total	\$20 971 73

Very respectfully,
LEWIS S. REED,
Secretary.

OMAHA, JUNE 8TH, 1891.

EXPENDITURES OF FORMER YEARS.

	BOOK ACCOUNT	BUILDING ACCOUNT	SALARY ACCOUNT	SUPPLY ACCOUNT	TOTAL
For fractional year ending June 1st, 1878	\$ 186 93	\$ 627 48	\$ 375 25	\$ 54 80	\$ 1244 46
For year ending June 1st, 1879.	1342 95	467 95	563 15	94 90	2468 95
" " 1880	1283 98	446 77	676 00	137 45	2544 20
" " 1881	1047 28	812 56	755 00	84 00	2698 84
" " 1882	1432 38	775 46	920 00	127 55	3255 39
" " 1883	1903 83	860 81	1080 00	121 80	3966 44
" " 1884	2041 02	1446 83	1260 00	125 65	4873 50
" " 1885	4495 22	1586 36	1789 20	507 85	8878 63
" " 1886	3805 56	1867 85	2142 26	257 99	8073 66
" " 1887	4616 37	2006 91	2522 05	353 52	9498 85
" " 1888	4283 32	3739 90	4761 83	1140 98	13925 98
" " 1889	5056 28	3853 97	3153 99	352 64	12516 88
" " 1890	7641 99	3513 45	3572 50	607 33	15385 27
" " 1891	12492 47	3633 94	4240 73	604 59	20971 73

REPORT OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Library:

During the year ending May 31, 1891, the Book Committee has added to the library by purchase 5,643 volumes. More books have been bought for students this year than ever before. The department of History has been increased by 954 volumes, and has been enriched by the Stevens Facsimiles of Manuscripts in European Archives relating to America. With Poole's "Index to Periodical Literature" as a guide, bound sets of the best periodicals such as the "Westminster," "Edinburgh Review," "Fortnightly Review," "Quarterly Review," "Nineteenth Century," and others, have been placed within reach of investigators. The publications of the Browning, Camden, Chaucer and Spenser Societies have been purchased. Several working literary clubs have submitted their programs a year in advance and the Library has bought such approved lists of books as they needed.

While the current books and the necessary general publications have been carefully kept up, it has been especially a year of advance in facilities for study and investigation. This is the result of a definite policy on the part of the Library and the good effect is shown in a constant though slow increase in the percentage of reading in the more solid departments. There is also a marked improvement in the character of the books recommended for purchase by the public. Educated men and women are taking more interest in the Library, are coming oftener to work in it and are asking for what they need.

We have now an appreciable and growing number of French and German patrons and our small and carefully chosen department of French and German works is constantly in circulation. A very few Spanish books have been used by clubs studying that language.

The public school children form a large proportion of our readers and the most notable purchase of the year have been for them.

Persons familiar with the Library catalogue will remember that only "Juvenile Fiction" is set apart as especially for children. The girls and boys turn to it as distinctly their part, and choose a story when they might easily be guided to one of the many good books written for them in History, Biography, Travels and Science, all of which are on the shelves. To recommend this class of reading has been one of the great tasks of the librarian. The American Library Association has at last solved the difficult problem. A manual compiled by John F. Sargent and published by the Library Bureau has recently been issued. It is entitled "Reading for the Young" and is a classified and annotated catalogue of books for children in all departments. A large order has supplied what we lacked, the catalogue has been adopted, and will be issued in September 1891, on the opening of the schools. This places in the hands of the children a catalogue exactly on the plan of that given their elders. Copies will be distributed among the teachers and their co-operation will be asked in bringing about what should exist in every city, a close relation between the Public Library and the Public Schools. Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH E. POPPLETON,
Chairman of the Book Committee.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, OMAHA, NEB., June 1, 1891.

To the Board of Directors, Omaha Public Library:—

The fourteenth annual report of the librarian of the Omaha Public Library, for the year ending May 31st, 1891, is herewith respectfully submitted.

BOOKS.

The total number of volumes entered in the accession catalogue is 33,643, a gain of 6,004 during the year. As to the means of accession, 5,643 were acquired by purchase; 174 consisted of periodicals which had been bound and placed upon the shelves; and the remaining 187 volumes were given to the library, 82 by individuals, and 105 by the State and the United States Departments.

The accessions represented the following classes of literature:

	VOLUMES.
Ancient Classics.....	60
Biography.....	216
Books for the young, including History, Travels, Biography, Science, Fiction, etc.....	864
Bound Periodicals.....	1,084
Fine Arts.....	125
General Literature.....	213
History.....	909
Language and Education.....	53
Law.....	11
Medicine and Hygiene.....	76
Natural History and Natural Science.....	257
Philosophy.....	19
Poetry and Drama.....	167
Political and Social Science.....	134
Prose Fiction.....	206
Public Documents (unclassified).....	94
Reference Books.....	104
Religion and Theology.....	151
Travels and Description.....	132
Useful and Recreative Arts.....	226
Duplicates.....	1,053

The Library has purchased an unusual number of books for the general reader and student, and has also added a few rare works especially desired by the scholar and the expert. Among this class of accessions may be mentioned,—

The American Public Health Association, Reports and Papers, 17 vols.; American Society of Civil Engineers, Transactions and Proceedings, 23 vols.; American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Transactions; Brown, Genesis of the United States, 2 vols.; Browning Society Publications; Camden Society Publications, 49 vols.; Chaucer Society Publications, 34 vols.; Colyer, Treatise on Modern Steam Engines and Boilers; Crowe and Cavalcaselle, History of Painting in Northern Italy, 2 vols.; Duruy, History of Greece and of the Greek people, 8 vols.; The Engineer, 65 vols.; French, Historical Collection of Louisiana, 5 vols.; Howe, The Metallurgy of Steel; Labarte, Histoire des Arts Industriels au Moyen Age, 3 vols.; Littré, Dictionnaire de la Langue Française, 5 vols.; Lock, Mining and Ore Dressing Machinery; Nolhac, La Reine Marie Antoinette; The Prince Society Publications, 16 vols.; Propert, History of Miniature Art; Racinet, Le Costume Historique, 5 vols.; Sargent, the Silva of North America, vol. 1; Schuyler, Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati; Scudder, The Fossil Insects of North America, 2 vols.; Spenser Society Publications, 41 vols.; Stevens, Fac-Similes of Manuscripts in European Archives relating to America, 7 vols.; Tooke, History of Prices, 6 vols.; Wheatley, London, Past and Present, 3 vol.; Wyatt, Industrial Arts of the Nineteenth Century, 2 vols.; Yriarte, Florence.

During the year, 848 books were destroyed as unserviceable, 2 were ordered burned on account of contagious disease, and 2 must be reported lost. The list of worn-out books comprised 466 volumes of English prose fiction, 337 Juvenile fiction, 2 poetry, 4 essays, 2 biography, 7 history, 14 travels, 1 natural history, 1 sports, 13 bound magazines.

Twenty-seven hundred and fifty-five books have been prepared and sent to the bindery. Of this number 1,939 have been returned, 402 having been bound, the remainder rebound. In addition not less than 3,000 books have been repaired at the library.

BOOK BORROWERS.

The total number of cards issued to June 1, 1891, is 24,275. Re-registration being required every three years, 15,000 of these cards have been canceled; leaving 9,275 still usable. Of these, card-holders 2,894 registered and 863 re-registered during the past year, 1,919, being males and 1,838 females. The minimum age is ten years.

CIRCULATION.

During the year the library was open for the delivery of books 302 days of 12 hours each, and 2 days of six hours each. The number of books issued for home use was 162,702, a daily average of 535, and a gain over the previous year of 17,101, or a little more than ten per cent.

On February 28, 1891, the record shows a home circulation of 1,234 books, the maximum of the year; the minimum being 172, May 13, 1891.

The circulation and daily average, as compared with the preceding year, is shown in the following table:

MONTH	1889-90			1890-91		
	DAYS	CIRCULA-TION	AVERAGE	DAYS	CIRCULA-TION	AVERAGE
June.....	25	10194	407	25	10491	419
July	26	11817	481	27	12150	450
August	27	11921	442	25	12795	512
September.....	24	9708	405	25	11718	469
October	27	10905	404	27	12161	450
November	25	12210	488	24	12831	534
December.....	25	11752	470	26	13879	534
January.....	27	13566	522	26	15580	599
February.....	24	13002	560	23	15139	658
March.....	26	15444	594	26	17314	666
April.....	26	13207	528	25	15487	619
May.....	27	12875	476	25	13157	526

The percentage of circulation, as compared with the preceding year, is as follows:

	1889-90.	1890-91.
English Prose Fiction.....	55.3	53.1
Juvenile Fiction.....	23.6	22.8
Poetry and Drama.....	1.6	1.5
General Literature.....	3.1	4.7
Ancient Classics.....	.3	.2
Biography.....	1.9	2.5
History.....	4.2	4.7
Travels and Description.....	3.0	3.2
Natural History and Natural Science.....	1.6	1.6
Useful and Fine Arts.....	2.3	2.4
Medicine and Hygiene.....	.6	.6
Philosophy.....	.3	.3
Language and Education.....	.5	.6
Political and Social Science and Law.....	.8	.9
Religion and Theology.....	.9	.8

CATALOGUES.

In October, 1890, the second annual supplement to the finding list was published. This list contains fifty-one double columned pages and represents one year's growth of the library.

The majority of the books have been accessioned, classified, shelf-listed and card-catalogued as received. Fourteen thousand one hundred and thirty-seven cards have been written and placed in the drawers of the case, which has been removed to the reference-room. This catalogue contains 56,227 cards. It is advancing slowly but surely in public favor.

Type written bulletins of accessions have been posted on every Friday of the year, and lists usually annotated have been prepared for the newspapers.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

The reference room was open to the public every day during the year with the exception of eight legal holidays. This department has been enriched by the purchase of 104 strictly reference books, 52 volumes of finely illustrated works, and the following volumes of bound periodicals: All the Year Round, 53 volumes; Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, 95 volumes; Contemporary Review, 50 volumes; Edinburgh Review, 59 volumes; Fort-

nightly Review, 46 volumes; Littell's Living Age, 147 volumes; Nineteenth Century, 24 volumes; North British Review, 53 volumes; Quarterly Review, 168 volumes; Westminster Review, 125 volumes.

In addition to the above, purchased to complete sets, the magazines used in the reading room have been bound and placed upon the shelves, duplicates in many cases having been purchased for circulation. At present the library possesses 1,800 bound volumes of periodicals, exclusive of duplicates, to which Poole's Index offers easy reference.

The regular reference books are on open shelves and are free to the public. It is impossible to give accurate figures regarding their use, but a conservative estimate places the number of visitors at 26,775, making the lowest possible number of books used 26,775. In addition 16,342 books have been issued from the circulating department for use in this room—a total of 43,117 volumes, of which less than one per cent. is fiction.

READING ROOM.

One hundred and twenty-six periodicals are purchased for use in this room. The list comprises 17 dailies, 51 weeklies, 4 fortnightlies, 46 monthlies and 8 quarterlies. American publications number 97; English, 23; French, 3 and German, 2. Seventy-two are on racks or in binders in the room, while 54 may be obtained at the desk, 8,922 such requests having been filled.

The number of visitors is estimated at 107,100.

RECEIPTS.

Received for fines.....	\$803 25
Received for subscriptions from non-residents.....	9 00
Received from the sale of finding lists and supplements.....	70 65
Received from deposits.....	295 00—\$1,177 90
Paid City Treasurer.....	882 90
Deposits refunded.....	279 00—\$1,161 90
<hr/>	
Balance on hand.....	\$16 00
Respectfully submitted,	

JESSIE ALLAN,
Librarian

LIST OF CURRENT PERIODICALS IN THE READING-ROOM.

American Anthropologist,	Washington,	Quarterly.
American Architect and Building News,	Boston,	Weekly.
American Builder and Wood Worker,	New York,	Monthly.
American Chemical Journal,	Baltimore,	Monthly.
American Journal of Archaeology,	Boston,	Quarterly.
American Journal of Folk-lore,	Boston,	Quarterly.
American Journal of Obstetrics,	New York,	Monthly.
American Journal of Philology,	Baltimore,	Quarterly.
American Machinist,	New York,	Weekly.
American Naturalist,	Philadelphia.	Monthly.
American Notes and Queries,	Philadelphia,	Weekly.
Andover Review,	Boston,	Monthly.
Arena The,	New York,	Monthly.
Army and Navy Journal,	New York,	Weekly.
Art L,	Paris,	Fortnightly.
Athenæum,	London,	Weekly.
Atlanta Constitution,	Atlanta,	Weekly.
Atlantic Monthly,	Boston,	Monthly.
Blackwood's Magazine,	Edinburgh,	Monthly.
Book Buyer,	New York,	Monthly.
Book Chat,	New York,	Monthly.
Boston Advertiser,	Boston,	Daily.
British Medical Journal,	London,	Weekly.
Cassell's Magazine of Art,	London,	Monthly.
Century Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.
Chautauquan,	Meadville, Pa.,	Monthly.
Chemical News,	London,	Weekly.
Chicago Times,	Chicago,	Daily.
Chicago Tribune,	Chicago,	Daily.
Christian Register,	Boston,	Weekly.
Cincinnati Inquirer.	Cincinnati,	Daily.
Contemporary Review,	London,	Monthly.
Critic,	New York,	Weekly.
Denver Republican,	Denver,	Daily.
Dial,	Chicago,	Monthly.
Die Gartenlaube,	Leipzig,	Weekly.
Edinburgh Review,	London,	Quarterly.
Education,	Boston,	Monthly.
Electrical World,	New York,	Weekly.
Engineer,	London,	Weekly.
Engineering News,	New York,	Weekly.
English Illustrated Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.

English Notes and Queries,	London,	Weekly.
Far and Near,	New York,	Monthly.
Figaro,	Paris,	Weekly.
Forest and Stream,	New York,	Weekly.
Fortnightly Review,	London,	Monthly.
Forum,	New York,	Monthly.
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly,	New York,	Weekly.
Garden and Forest,	New York,	Weekly.
Harper's Bazar.	New York,	Weekly.
Harper's Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.
Harper's Weekly.	New York,	Weekly.
Harper's Young People,	New York,	Weekly.
Hickcox Monthly Catalogue of United States Publications,	Washington,	Monthly.
Illustrated London News,	London,	Weekly.
Irish World,	New York,	Weekly.
Journal of United Labor,	Philadelphia,	Weekly.
Kansas City Journal,	Kansas City,	Daily.
Library Journal,	New York,	Monthly.
Life,	New York,	Weekly.
Lippincott's Magazine,	Philadelphia,	Monthly.
Literary News,	New York,	Monthly.
Literary World,	Boston,	Fortnightly.
Littell's Living Age,	Boston,	Weekly.
London Architect,	London,	Weekly.
London Graphic,	London,	Weekly.
London Quarterly,	London,	Quarterly.
London Times,	London,	Weekly.
Magazine of American History,	New York,	Monthly.
Medical Record,	New York,	Weekly.
Nashville American,	Nashville,	Weekly.
Nation,	New York,	Weekly.
National Car and Locomotive Builder,	New York,	Monthly.
Nature,	London,	Weekly.
Nebraska Tribune (German),	Omaha,	Weekly.
Nebraska State Journal.	Lincoln,	Daily.
New Orleans Times-Democrat,	New Orleans,	Weekly.
New York Tribune,	New York,	Daily.
New York World,	New York,	Daily.
Nineteenth Century.	London,	Monthly.
North American Review,	New York,	Monthly.
Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office,	Washington,	Weekly.
Omaha Bee.	Omaha,	Daily.
Omaha Clinic.	Omaha,	Monthly.
Omaha Excelsior,	Omaha,	Weekly.
Omaha World Herald,	Omaha,	Daily.

Outing.	New York,	Monthly.
Philadelphia Times,	Philadelphia,	Daily.
Political Science Quarterly	New York,	Quarterly.
Popular Science Monthly,	New York,	Monthly.
Portfolio,	London,	Monthly.
Public Opinion,	Washington,	Weekly.
Publisher's Weekly,	New York,	Weekly.
Quarterly Journal of Economics,	Boston,	Quarterly.
Railroad and Engineering Journal,	New York,	Monthly.
Review of Reviews,	London,	Monthly.
Revue des Deux Mondes,	Paris,	Fortnightly
St. Louis Globe Democrat,	St. Louis,	Daily.
St. Nicholas,	New York,	Monthly.
San Francisco Chronicle,	San Francisco,	Daily.
Saturday Review,	London,	Weekly.
Science,	Cambridge,	Weekly.
Scientific American.	New York,	Weekly.
Scientific American Supplement,	New York,	Weekly.
Scribner's Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.
Siderial Messenger.	Northfield,	Monthly.
Society of Chemical Industry,	London,	Monthly.
Sunday Magazine,	London,	Monthly.
Technology Architectural Review,	Boston,	Monthly.
Ueber Land und Meer,	Stuttgart,	Weekly.
Unitarian Review.	Boston,	Monthly.
University Extension Journal.	London,	Fortnightly
Washington Star,	Washington,	Weekly.
Western Electrician,	Chicago.	Weekly.
Westminster Review,	London,	Monthly.
Wide Awake,	Boston,	Monthly.
Wood's Medical and Surgical Monographs,	New York,	Monthly.
Youths' Companion,	Boston,	Weekly.

LIST OF DONORS.

	VOL- UMES.	PAM- PHLETS.	NUM- BERS.
Allan, Jessie	2	....	....
American Bar Association	1	....
American Library Association	1	....
American Society of Civil Engineers	1	....
Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.....	3	....
Astor Library, New York	1	....
Brockton Public Library	2	....
Bronson Library	1	....
Brookline (Mass.) Public Library	1	....
Brooklyn Library	2	....

	Volumes	Pamphlets	Nos.
Brymmer, D.....	1	....	....
Canada, Royal Society of	1	....	....
Chicago Public Library .....	....	2	....
Chicago University .....	....	1	....
Cincinnati Public Library .....	....	1	....
Cleburne, Mrs. E .....	....	....	11
Cornell University .....	....	1	....
Council Bluffs (Ia.) Public Library .....	....	1	....
Creighton College Students' Library .....	....	1	....
Darrow, Mrs. R. H.	1	....	....
Denver Public Library .....	....	2	....
Dover (N. H.) Public Library .....	....	1	....
Duluth (Minn.) Board of Public Works .....	....	1	....
Elgutter, C. S.	1	....	....
Enoch Pratt Library	1	2	....
Furnas, R. W.	2	....	....
Grand Rapids Public School Library .....	....	1	....
Griffis, W. E.	1	....	....
Hartford (Conn.) Library Association .....	....	3	....
Harvard University .....	....	3	4
Howard, G. E.	2	1	....
Howard Memorial Library (New Orleans) .....	....	1	....
Indianapolis (Ind.) Public Library	1	....	....
Iowa State Agricultural College .....	....	1	....
Jaynes, H. S. ....	....	1	....
Jenkins, J.	1	....	....
Johnstown (Penn.) Report of Secretary of Relief Com- mission, 1890 .....	....	1	....
Kansas State Historical Society	1	3	....
Kouvalinka, J. G. ....	....	1	....
Lawrence (Mass.) Public Library .....	....	1	....
Leech, E. O.	1	....	....
Library Bureau	1	....	....
Los Angeles Public Library .....	....	1	....
Lovett, J.	1	....	....
Lynn (Mass.) Public Library .....	....	2	....
Manchester (N. H.) City Library .....	....	1	....
Mann, N. M. ....	....	4	16
May, R. L.	1	....	....
McKnight, D. A.	1	....	....
Merriam, Dr. L. A.	5	....	....
Minneapolis (Minn.) Public Library .....	....	6	....
Missionary Conference	2	....	....
Missouri Civil Service Reform Association .....	....	1	....
Morse Institute, Natick, Mass. ....	....	1	....
Morrow, Mrs. H. A.	17	....	....
Nebraska Bankers' Association .....	....	1	....

	Volumes	Pamphlets	Nos.
Nebraska Secretary of State	20	.....	.....
Newark (N. J.) Free Public Library .....	.....	2	.....
Newberry Library .....	.....	1	.....
Newburyport (Mass.) Public Library .....	.....	2	.....
New Haven Public Library .....	.....	1	.....
New York Mercantile Library Association .....	.....	1	.....
New York State University .....	.....	1	.....
O'Reilly, J. B.	2	.....	.....
Paterson, N. J., Public Library .....	.....	1	.....
Pawtucket Free Library .....	.....	1	.....
Peattie, E. W.	1	.....	.....
Pennsylvania Historical Society	1	1	.....
Pennsylvania University .....	.....	2	.....
Philadelphia Library Company .....	.....	2	.....
Poor H. V. and H. W.	1	1	.....
Portland (Me.) Public Library	2	3	.....
Pratt Institute. ....	.....	1	.....
Providence (R. I.) Public Library .....	.....	1	.....
Salem Public Library .....	.....	1	.....
Sawin J. M. ....	.....	1	.....
Smith R. C.	1	.....	.....
Somerville (Mass.) Public Library .....	.....	1	.....
Springfield (Mass.) Library Association .....	.....	1	.....
Sterret J. MacB. ....	.....	1	.....
St. Louis Mercantile Library .....	.....	1	.....
St. Louis Public Library .....	.....	2	.....
Summers Dr. J. E. jr. ....	.....	1	.....
Superior (Wis.) Board of Trade .....	.....	1	.....
Sweesy W. F.	1	.....	.....
Thayer E. H.	1	.....	.....
Thomas Crane Public Library (Quincy Mass.) .....	.....	1	.....
Toronto Public Library .....	.....	2	.....
Tuft's Library (Weymouth Mass.) .....	.....	2	.....
Tyler W. G. ....	.....	1	.....
Van Gieson Dr H. C.	1	.....	.....
Vogue N. C.	1	.....	.....
Wallace Wm.	1	.....	.....
Waltham (Mass.) Public Library. ....	.....	1	.....
Washington, D. C. Various Departments.	107	.....	.....
Waterhouse S. ....	.....	4	.....
Wells S. F.	1	.....	.....
Wilmington (Del.) Institute. ....	.....	1	.....
Wisconsin State Historical Society .....	.....	1	.....
Worcester Free Public Library	1	2	.....
Yale College. ....	.....	2	.....

THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, }
DOUGLAS COUNTY, } ss.

Lewis S. Reed, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Library, being duly sworn, says that the foregoing report is true as he verily believes.

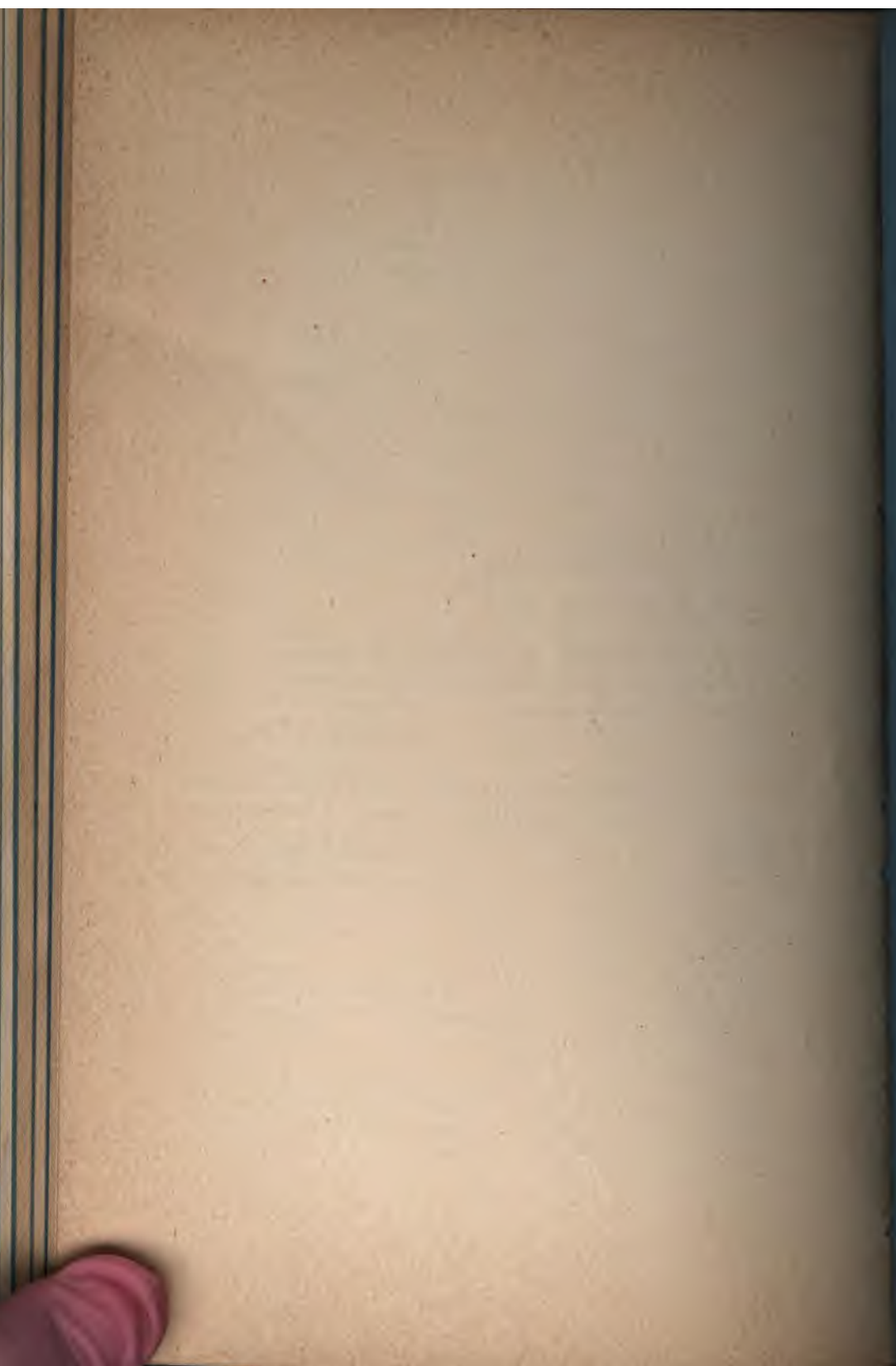
LEWIS S. REED.

*Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
me this 27th day of June, A. D. 1891.*

{ NOTARIAL
SEAL. }

W. H. S. HUGHES,

Notary Public.



- 1932

OMAHA
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT

1892.



THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOR
THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1892.



OMAHA:
PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS,
1518 FAENAM STREET,
PAXTON BLOCK.

REES PRINTING COMPANY,
PRINTERS, LITHOGRAPHERS AND BINDERS,
11TH & HOWARD STREETS, OMAHA.

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

PRESIDENT,

LEWIS S. REED.

VICE-PRESIDENT,

WILLIAM WALLACE.

SECRETARY,

W. S. CURTIS.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CLAIRE RUSTIN MCINTOSH,
ANDREW J. POPPLETON,
THOS. K. SUDBOROUGH,
ELIZABETH E. POPPLETON,
ELIJAH DUNN,
WILLIAM S. CURTIS,
WILLIAM WALLACE,
P. L. PERINE,
LEWIS S. REED.

COMMITTEES.

Executive—Directors WALLACE, DUNN AND SUDBOROUGH.

Book—Directors E. E. POPPLETON, MCINTOSH, CURTIS AND PERINE.

Judiciary—Directors A. J. POPPLETON AND CURTIS.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

LIBRARIAN,

JESSIE ALLAN.

ASSISTANTS,

MARGARET A. O'BRIEN,
EDITH TOBITT,
MARY DEVITTE,

BLANCHE A. ALLAN,
THEODORA M. BURSTALL,
CORA MCCANDLISH.



THE ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Honorable, the Mayor, and City Council of the City of Omaha:

The Directors of the Public Library of said city submit herewith their fifteenth annual report, showing the condition of their trust on the first day of June, 1892.

The general law of the state, Act entitled "An act to authorize cities to establish and maintain free public libraries and reading rooms," approved, February 25th, 1875, still in force, under which the Omaha Public Library was established, required an annual report to the City or Town Council, and former reports have been so made. The ordinance of the City of Omaha, number 3027, entitled "An Ordinance to establish a Public Library, Reading Room, Art Galleries and Museums, and to provide for the management, protection and government of the same," approved, May 2, 1892, directs that the report be made to the Mayor and City Council, and this report is therefore made in duplicate, and addressed accordingly.

In the main there is no great difference in the terms and provisions of the State law and the city ordinance. The latter confers upon the Directors of the Library additional powers, and at the same time imposes new duties and restraints.

The reports of the Secretary and the Librarian, appended, contain the specific information in detail required by law.

The number of books bought during the year is less than usual, because the fifty feet of land purchased to enlarge the building site must be paid for out of the Library Fund, and for the further reason that the crowded condition of our present rooms rendered extensive purchases inadvisable.

The Board regrets that the new Library building cannot be completed as soon as was hoped. The annual report for 1891 said (see page 8) "With prompt and energetic action, and a hearty co-operation in all the departments of the city government, your

Board believes that the bonds can be voted, issued and sold, and the work of construction proceeded with so rapidly that the Library building can be completed for occupancy before the close of 1892."

In consequence of a question as to the right of the city to purchase the fifty feet on Harney Street, adjacent to the ground donated by the late Byron Reed and his family, litigation resulted, which, for a time, delayed the arrangements for a speedy construction of the building. A trial was had in the District Court, and the decision rendered by Judge Irvine sustained the Library Board, and its recommendations in favor of enlarging the building site have been carried out, and the fifty feet of ground has been bought and conveyed to the City of Omaha.

The heirs of Byron Reed have at all times shown a willingness to aid in making it easy for the city to perform its part of what was required under the will to carry out the manifest wishes of the deceased. In January, 1892, at the request of the Board, the heirs united in executing a paper consenting to certain modifications in the requirements of the will respecting the donated lot. These modifications permit that the building may occupy less than the whole lot, that it may be located partially on the fifty feet purchased by the city, that it may be less than four stories high, and that fire proofing, similar to that in W. A. Paxton's Block on 16th and Farnam Streets, may be used in the construction. The delivery to the city of this document, and its acceptance by the City Council, removed the objections urged by those who thought the terms of Mr. Reed's bequest so strict that compliance therewith was not practicable.

In March last, the Board invited architects to submit designs for a building, and the following named architects entered into the competition: Mendelsohn, Fisher & Laurie, Omaha; Charles Biendorff, Omaha; Sidney Smith, Omaha; J. W. Bryan, Omaha; Joseph Irwin, Omaha; Walker & Kimball, Boston and Omaha; W. A. Otis, Chicago.

Several of the plans submitted possessed excellent features and indicated thoughtful study on the part of the Architects as to the needs of a Library Building. After careful consideration by the Board, preference was, on a vote by ballot, given to the plans made by Walker & Kimball, and those gentlemen have been

employed as Architects, and are now perfecting the specifications so that bids will soon be requested.

The design for the Library Building has been criticised as being plain. The Board (see 1891 report, page 7) recommended that bonds to the amount of \$150,000 be voted, but the City Council decided that not more than \$100,000 could be devoted to the purpose. The building had to be a first-class, fire proof structure, and there being such a limited amount of money applicable, the Board considered utility and appropriateness more essential than an ornate external appearance. The Board believes the elevation chosen meets the best requirements of good taste, and it is confirmed in this belief by the commendations of many people especially competent in these matters, who have examined the drawings. The plan is so arranged that an extension towards the south can be added without destroying the portion first erected, and without losing valuable space.

The recent ordinance passed by the city May 2, 1892, directs that there be established in Omaha, Public Libraries, Reading rooms, Art Galleries and Museums. Prior to the completion of our new building but little can be done in the way of acquiring works of art or property to be placed in the museum. As soon as the building is ready so that suitable rooms can be assigned for these new departments, it will be the pleasure of the Board to proceed with the work of establishing an Art Gallery and Museum. Mr. Julius Meyer, we understand, has signified his intention to place part of his valuable Indian Collection in the Museum, and it is believed Mr. Fred Parker, of Florence, will present to the city some of the fossils, petrifications, and pre-historic relics which he has obtained during his travels in the western country. Other collectors of note will no doubt make valuable contributions when the Board shall be ready to receive them.

The Board commends Miss Jessie Allan and her courteous and competent assistants for the excellent manner in which they have performed their work during the past year.

The library rooms and its books keep many boys off the streets and away from surroundings that might be injurious. The habit formed early in life of reading good books is always continued, and the studious boys become thoughtful men and good citizens.

To his honor Mayor Bemis and to each member of the City

Council, your Board wishes to return its warmest and most hearty thanks. The promptness with which the Council has always considered and acted upon suggestions for the improvement of the Library shows a proper appreciation for its importance.

The Board feels that no better value is received for any public money than for what is expended for maintaining the Library, and we believe its usefulness will be largely increased when it can occupy its permanent home.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board,

LEWIS S. REED, President.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

To the President of the Public Library Board:

SIR: The following is a statement of the monies expended on account of the Omaha Public Library and Reading Rooms for the year ending May 31, 1892:

BOOK ACCOUNT.

For books purchased and freight	\$6,898 82	
Periodicals	662 20	
Binding.....	1,218 41	
Insurance.....	200 00	
		<u>\$8,979 43</u>

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Rent	\$2,100 00	
Gas and Electric Light.....	733 86	
Furniture and improvements.....	276 00	
Janitor service	345 10	
Advertising Bond Proposition for New Library Building	100 51	
Payment on lot for New Library Building.....	6,000 00	
		<u>\$9,555 47</u>

SALARY ACCOUNT.

Librarian and assistants.....	\$5,209 63	
		<u>\$5,209 63</u>

SUPPLY ACCOUNT.

Printing, stationery, etc.....	\$ 410 82	
Ice, matches, brooms, etc.....	58 46	
Miscellaneous.....	19 40	
		<u>\$ 488 68</u>
Total		<u>\$24,233 21</u>

Very respectfully,

WM. S. CURTIS,

Secretary.

OMAHA, JUNE 6, 1892.

EXPENDITURES OF FORMER YEARS.

		BOOK ACCOUNT	BUILDING ACCOUNT	SALARY ACCOUNT	SUPPLY ACCOUNT	TOTAL
For fractional year ending June 1st, 1878.....		\$ 186 93	\$ 627 48	\$ 375 25	\$ 54 80	\$1244 46
For year ending June 1st, 1879.....		1342 95	467 95	563 15	94 90	2468 95
" " 1880.....		1383 98	446 77	676 00	137 45	2544 20
" " 1881.....		1047 28	812 56	755 00	84 00	2698 84
" " 1882.....		1432 38	775 46	920 00	127 55	3255 39
" " 1883.....		1903 83	860 81	1080 00	121 80	3966 44
" " 1884.....		2041 02	1446 83	1260 00	125 65	4878 50
" " 1885.....		4495 22	1586 36	1789 20	507 85	8378 63
" " 1886.....		3805 56	1867 85	2142 26	257 99	8073 66
" " 1887.....		4616 37	2006 91	2522 05	353 52	9498 85
" " 1888.....		4268 32	3739 90	4701 83	1140 93	13925 98
" " 1889.....		5656 28	3353 97	3153 99	352 64	12516 88
" " 1890.....		7641 99	3513 45	3572 50	607 33	15935 27
" " 1891.....		12492 47	3693 94	4240 73	604 59	20971 73
" " 1892.....		8979 43	9555 47	5209 63	438 68	24238 21

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, June 1, 1892.

To the Directors of the Omaha Public Library:

I have the honor to submit the fifteenth annual report of the Librarian of the Omaha Public Library, giving the condition and work of the library for the year ending May 31, 1892.

On June 1, 1891, 33,643 volumes had been entered in the accession catalogue. At this date we are able to report 38,471; showing a gain of 4,828. This number comprises 4,226 volumes gained by purchase, 156 by binding periodicals taken for use in the reading room and 445 gifts, a list of the donors of which may be seen in the appendix.

The fact that the aggregate of accessions and the number of noticeable books and bound periodicals is decidedly less than the previous year, is due to our limited quarters, which have been, not only a constant menace to our books, but have precluded the idea of extensive additions.

This is especially unfortunate as regards the periodicals, as all libraries, realizing the importance of the immense field of literature to which Poole's Index offers easy access, are making every effort to purchase sets which are not only increasing rapidly in price, but are becoming practically unobtainable.

The class of the accessions is shown by the following table:

Biography	180
Bound Periodicals.....	309
Fine Arts	122
General Literature.....	185
History	190
Language and Education.....	48
Law	7
Medicine and Hygiene	46

Natural History.....	143
Natural Science.....	76
Philosophy.....	11
Poetry and Drama.....	225
Political and Social Science.....	121
Prose Fiction (adult).....	197
Prose Fiction (juvenile).....	226
Public Documents (unclassified).....	155
Reference Books.....	78
Religion and Theology.....	77
Travels and Description.....	132
Useful and Recreative Arts.....	285
Duplicates of all classes.....	2015

With the exception of the duplicates, a general idea of the accessions may be obtained from this table. The distribution of "Reading for the Young," involved a heavy purchase of juvenile books. The aim has been to give special attention to the duplication of other classes than fiction.

Added to this, during the months of April and May, a careful examination of the departments of history, biography, natural science and practical arts was made. This resulted in a large order to replace worn out books and to place on our shelves new editions of old and tried works. These acquisitions are of too recent a date to affect the circulation as given in this report.

Among the prominent purchases of the year may be mentioned:

- Alteneck. Artistic wrought iron work.
- Archaeological Institute of America. Papers. 12 vols.
- L'Art. Vols. 1-49.
- Burney. General history of music.
- Chaffers. Marks and monograms on pottery and porcelain.
- Clark. The steam engine.
- Dublin Review. Vols. 1-106.
- Duruy. History of Greece.
- Fiske. The discovery of America (large paper edition).
- Garnier. The soft porcelain of Sevres.
- Gotch and Brown. The architecture of the renaissance in England.
- Graphic. Vols. 1-42.
- Harper. English pen-artists of today.

- Holmes. Writings (large paper edition).
- Julian. Dictionary of hymnology.
- Lyon. Colonial furniture of New England.
- McCook. American spiders and their spinning-work.
- Penrose. Principles of Athenian architecture.
- Portfolio. Vols. 1-21.
- Rose. Modern machine-shop practice.
- Sargent. The silva of North America. Vols. 2-3.
- Stevens. Fac-similes of manuscripts in European archives relating to America. Vols. 8-12.
- Theatre. Vols. 1-43.
- Thomson. The Barbizon School.
- Thymms and Wyatt. The art of illuminating.

The most important pamphlets have, as received, been bound and placed in the circulating department. Increased space and the facilities offered by a permanent building will enable us to utilize not only the 389 pamphlets received this year, but the accumulation of many years.

A heavy circulation combined with a page-by-page examination of the department of fiction has resulted in the condemnation of 801 volumes as unserviceable. As other copies of the same are discarded, many of these will have deficiencies supplied as have sixty-nine volumes reported last year. Lost volumes number twelve; two being from the reading room, eight from the reference room and two taken on cards and not returned, book-borrowers and guarantors having left the city. Eighty-four volumes of duplicate public documents have been sent to Washington to be re-distributed. By deducting these items we have a net gain of 4,000 volumes.

CIRCULATION.

The circulating department has been open 307 days. The number of books issued for home use was 189,007, being an average daily issue of 622, and a gain over the previous year of 26,305. The largest issue for home use any one day was 1,402; the smallest 284.

The following table shows the number of books drawn for home reading during the year, also the daily average as compared with the preceding year:

MONTH	1890-91			1891-92		
	DAYS	CIRCULATION	AVERAGE	DAYS	CIRCULATION	AVERAGE
June.....	25	10491	419	26	12619	485
July.....	27	12150	450	26	13099	504
August.....	25	12795	512	26	13927	525
September.....	25	11718	469	25	12439	500
October.....	27	12161	450	27	14399	533
November	24	12881	534	24	14487	604
December.....	26	13879	534	26	17336	667
January	26	15580	599	26	18065	695
February	23	15139	658	24	19034	793
March	26	17314	666	27	20090	744
April	25	15487	619	25	17425	697
May	25	13557	526	25	16037	641

The character of the books drawn for home use is shown by the following statement:

	1889-90	1890-91	1891-92
Prose Fiction (adult).....	55.3	53.1	50.1
Prose Fiction (juvenile).....	23.6	22.8	21.6
Poetry and Drama.....	1.6	1.5	1.6
General Literature.....	3.1	4.7	6.2
Ancient Classics.....	.3	.2	.3
Biography.....	1.9	2.5	2.7
History.....	4.2	4.7	5.6
Travels and Description.....	.3	3.2	3.9
Natural History and Natural Science.....	1.6	1.6	1.7
Useful and Fine Arts.....	2.3	2.4	2.7
Medicine and Hygiene.....	.6	.6	.7
Philosophy.....	.3	.3	.3
Language and Education.....	.5	.6	.6
Political and Social Science and Law.....	.8	.9	1.
Religion and Theology.....	.9	.8	1.

While the change in the class of reading is neither sufficiently marked to attract attention nor to draw hasty conclusions, permit me to call attention to the decrease in the use of fiction. The four per cent. represents only the actual decrease in the number of volumes, and fails to show the decided elevation of standard of books desired in this department. An examination of the shelf-lists will, by showing number of copies, indicate the relative favor in which the books are held.

A satisfactory and very inexpensive feature has been introduced during the year—the circulation of current numbers of a few periodicals. Additional copies of the Atlantic, 1; Century, 5; Chautauquan, 2; Cosmopolitan, 2; Forum, 3; Harper, 5; North American, 3; Outing, 2; Popular Science, 1; St. Nicholas, 3; Scribners, 3; Wide Awake, 2, are circulated in the same manner as books, except that the time is limited to seven days without the privilege of renewal.

REFERENCE ROOM.

The reference room has been open every day during the year with the exception of the following named legal holidays: January 1; February 22; April 22; May 30; July 4; September 7; November 26; December 25.

No attempt has been made to determine the exact number of visitors to this room, but a conservative estimate based on figures obtained on representative days places the number at 40,150. In addition to the actual reference books, to which the public has direct access, 30,743 volumes have been drawn from the circulating department for reference work.

A noticeable and constantly growing use is being made of the publications of the Patent Office. This is especially gratifying when we consider our poor equipment for this work. Beside our local patrons, many communications have been received from cities hundreds of miles away to ascertain what the library possessed in this class. I would earnestly request your consideration as to the advisability of making a beginning toward procuring complete sets of the Drawings and Specifications of United States Patents and the Patent Reports of Great Britain.

READING ROOM.

The reading room has been open 307 days, from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M., and fifty-one days from 12 M. to 7 P. M. It is supplied with 142 periodicals, a full list of which may be found in the appendix.

The number of visitors is placed at 111,290, an average of 310 a day. Seventy-one periodicals are kept in binders on the table or on racks; the others are obtained by calling at the delivery counter, 14,230 such requests having been filled during the year.

BOOK BORROWERS.

The total number of registrations and re-registrations to June 1, 1892, is 29,339. Of these 19,499 have been cancelled, leaving 9,850 cards still usable. Of this number 4,765 were issued during the year, 2,425 to girls and women and 2,340 to boys and men.

Requests to draw books are numerous from residents of Council Bluffs, South Omaha, Bellevue, Florence, Benson and

many homes beyond the limits of the city. Whether an arrangement with officials of towns not in possession of libraries, might not add to the wider usefulness of this library, and also tend to disseminate the library spirit throughout the State, is a question which I most respectfully beg to submit for your consideration.

CATALOGUES.

In November, the third annual supplement to the Finding List of 1888 was published. The card catalogue has with some exceptions been kept up to date. Bulletins of new books have been regularly posted and numerous special lists have been published through the courtesy of the press.

In November, our edition of five hundred copies of "Reading for the Young" was received. Owing to the impossibility of inserting shelf marks, it had been necessary to print the catalogue in single columns, thereby increasing it to 221 pages. The books for the smallest readers designated "c" were not purchased; but the majority of the others had been received and catalogued.

One hundred and fifty-seven copies were taken to the schools. A personal call was made on each principal, to whom the catalogue was explained. Certificates and rules of membership were at the same time left for distribution.

The result as regards new borrowers was more than we had expected; but the use of the catalogue not what we had hoped. While the interest manifested by many of the teachers has amounted to enthusiasm others have been decidedly indifferent. That this is the result of thoughtlessness we doubt not. The words of Mr. Charles Francis Adams, Jr., to the teachers of the schools of Quincy, are equally applicable here.

"As I have visited the schools since, I have taken occasion to ask for these catalogues, and I am sorry to say, I have generally found them—there are two or three notable exceptions to this remark—locked away in some drawer of the teacher's desk, and looking on examination most suggestively fresh and clean. I want very much indeed to see our really admirable town library become a more living element than it now is in our school system, its complement in fact. Neither trustee nor librarian, no matter how faithful or zealous he may be, can make it so; for we can not know enough of the individual scholars to give them that which they personally need and which only they will take; you

can not feed them until you know what they like; and that we in dealing with the mass, can not get at. You teachers, however, can get at it if you choose."

Superintendent Fitzpatrick is fully in accord with the movement. • At his request, short lists of books have been prepared for different grades, to be used during the coming year.

The library will need in the near future a type written author card catalogue for the delivery room, delivery stations, class rooms and "University extension."

Respectfully submitted,

JESSIE ALLAN, Librarian.

SUMMARY.

Total number of volumes.....	38471
Number added during the year.....	4828
Book Borrowers cards issued during the year.....	4765

CIRCULATION.

For home use.....	189,007
For library use.....	30,743
Reference books (estimated).....	40,150
Magazines.....	14,230
Reading room (estimated).....	111,290
Total,	385,420

RECEIPTS.

From fines.....	\$885.80
From subscriptions.....	17.50
From the sale of catalogues.....	57.70
Total,	\$961.00

		ACCESSIONS	HOME CIR- CULATION	CARDS ISSUED	FINES, ETC.
	For the year ending May 31, 1879.....	.....	34,476	992	\$ 238 65
"	" 1880.....	886	41,288	760	288 25
"	" 1881.....	852	36,202	787	268 80
"	" 1882.....	1,170	44,610	904	326 00
"	" 1883.....	1,415	54,600	1,162	376 00
"	" 1884.....	1,184	57,204	1,198	379 05
"	" 1885.....	2,225	60,907	1,167	438 35
"	" 1886.....	1,898	80,080	2,025	526 35
"	" 1887.....	2,613	90,341	2,119	639 90
"	" 1888.....	2,327	95,488	2,293	658 40
"	" 1889.....	3,805	124,501	3,303	824 40
"	" 1890.....	4,608	145,601	3,026	1073 40
"	" 1891.....	6,004	162,702	3,757	1161 90
"	" 1892.....	4,828	189,007	4,765	961 00

LIST OF DONORS.—APPENDIX "A."

	Vol- umes.	Pamph- lets.	Nos.
Allan, Mrs. J. T.	84	119	.....
Amherst College.....		1	.....
Bettesworth, G. W.....	1		.....
Boston Public Library.....		2	.....
Brewer, Dr. L.....		1	.....
Brookline, (Mass.) Public Library.....		1	.....
Brooklyn Public Library.....		1	.....
Bryan, W. J. See Washington.....			.....
Brymmer, D.....	1		.....
Butterfield, C. W.....	1		.....
Cambridge Public Library.....	1		.....
Central Park Menagerie.....		1	.....
Chicago Public Library.....		14	.....
Chicago University.....		1	.....
Cincinnati Public Library.....	4	5	.....
Cleveland Public Library.....		1	.....
Columbus Public Library.....		1	.....
Connell, W. G.....	39		.....
Cornell University.....		1	.....
Cox, W. W.....	1		.....
Dayton Public Library.....		2	.....
Decatur (Ill.) Public Library.....		1	.....
Denver Public Library.....		2	3
Despatch Printing Company, Denver.....	1		.....
Detroit Library Commission.....		2	.....
Detroit Public Library.....		2	.....
Dover, (N. H.) Public Library.....		1	.....
Egypt Exploration Fund.....		1	.....
Engle, Mrs. F.....	2		92
Enoch Pratt Free Library.....		1	.....
Fletcher Public Library.....		1	.....
Grand Island Public Library.....		1	.....
Grand Rapids Public School Library.....		1	.....
Gazette Printing Company, Denver.....	1		.....
Griffis, W. E.....	1		.....
Hartford Public Library.....			8
Hartford Seminary.....		1	.....
Harvard University.....	1	5	.....
Howard Memorial Library (New Orleans).....		1	.....
Iowa State Library.....	1		.....
Jersey City Public Library.....		4	.....
LaFayette Public Library.....		2	.....
Lehmer, J. R.....	1		200

	Vol- umes.	Pamph- lets.	Nos.
Leland Stanford Jr. University.....		3	.....
Lincoln Public Library.....		1	.....
Los Angeles Public Library.....		1	.....
Lynn, (Mass.) Public Library.....		1	.....
Manchester Public Library.....		1	.....
Manderson, C. F. See Washington.....			.....
Massachusetts State Board of Health.....	2		.....
Milwaukee Public Library.....	1	1	.....
Minneapolis Public Library.....	3	1	.....
Morse Institute, (Natick. Mass).....		1	.....
Nebraska State Historical Society.....	2		.....
Nebraska State Horticultural Society.....	4		.....
Nevada. Adjutant General of.....		1	.....
Newark Free Public Library.....		2	3
Newberry Library.....		1	.....
Newburyport (Mass) Public Library.....		1	.....
New York State University.....		4	.....
North Adams Public Library.....		1	.....
Omaha Board of Trade.....		6	.....
Omaha City Comptroller.....		2	.....
Omaha Superintendent of Public Schools.....		1	.....
Peabody Institute.....		1	.....
Peattie, R. B.....	4		.....
Peele, W. A., Jr.....	1		.....
Pennsylvania University.....		1	.....
Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science.....		1	.....
Philadelphia Library Company.....		1	.....
Pratt Institute.....		1	.....
Providence (R. I.) Public Library.....		1	.....
Publisher's Weekly.....	1		.....
Reddick's Library (Ottawa, Ill.).....		1	.....
Register Publishing Company, Chicago.....	1		.....
Rosewater. E.....	73		.....
Rule and Cole, (Caldwell, Idaho).....		1	.....
Salem Public Library.....		1	.....
San Francisco Mercantile Library Association.....		1	.....
Scranton Public Library.....		1	.....
Seattle Board of Trade.....		1	.....
Somerville (Mass.) City Library.....		1	.....
Southard, J. B.....	5		.....
Springfield (Mass.) City Library.....		1	.....
State Agricultural College, Iowa.....		1	.....
Stebbins, R. S.....	1		.....
St. Joseph Conservatory of Music.....		3	.....
St. Louis Mercantile Library.....		1	.....

	Vol- umes.	Pamph- lets.	Nos.
St. Louis Public Library		1	.....
St. Paul Public Library		1	.....
Surgeon General's Office, U. S.	1	.....	.....
Taunton Public Library		1	.....
Thomas Crane Library		1	.....
Toledo Public Library		1	.....
Tuft's Library (Weymouth, Mass.)		2	.....
University of California	1	.....	.....
Vassar College	1	.....	.....
Vassar, John G., Estate	1	.....	.....
Wallace, William	2	.....	.....
Warder Public Library		1	.....
Washington, D. C. Various Departments	198	115	.....
Wilmington (Del.) Institute		1	.....
Worcester Free Public Library		1	26
World's Columbian Exposition Commission		18	.....
World's Congress Auxiliary, Chicago		17	.....
Wright, C. D.		1	.....
Yale College		2	.....

APPENDIX "B."

LIST OF PERIODICALS CURRENTLY RECEIVED.

American Anthropologist,	Washington,	Quarterly.
American Architect and Building		
News,	Boston,	Weekly.
American Art Printer,	New York,	Monthly.
American Builder and Wood Worker,	New York,	Monthly.
American Chemical Journal,	Baltimore,	Monthly.
American Journal of Archaeology,	Boston,	Quarterly.
American Journal of Obstetrics,	New York,	Monthly.
American Journal of Philology,	Baltimore,	Quarterly.
American Journal of Psychology,	Worcester,	Quarterly.
American Machinist,	New York,	Weekly.
American Naturalist,	Philadelphia,	Monthly.
American Notes and Queries,	Philadelphia,	Weekly.
Andover Review,	Boston,	Monthly.
Architect,	London,	Weekly.
Architectural Review,	Boston,	Monthly.
Arena The,	New York,	Monthly.

Army and Navy Journal,	New York,	Weekly.
Art L,'	Paris,	Fortnightly.
Astronomy and Astro-Physics,	Northfield,	Monthly.
Athanaeum,	London,	Weekly.
Atlanta Constitution,	Atlanta,	Weekly.
Atlantic Monthly,	Boston,	Monthly.
Black and White,	London,	Weekly.
Blackwood's Magazine,	Edinburgh,	Monthly.
Book Buyer,	New York,	Monthly.
Book Chat,	New York,	Monthly.
Boston Advertiser,	Boston,	Daily.
Boston Public Library Bulletins,	Boston,	Quarterly.
British Medical Journal.	London,	Weekly.
Cassell's Magazine of Art,	London,	Monthly.
Century Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.
Chautauquan,	Meadville, Pa.,	Monthly.
Chemical News,	London,	Weekly.
Chicago Times,	Chicago,	Daily.
Chicago Tribune,	Chicago,	Daily.
Christian Register,	Boston,	Weekly.
Cincinnati Enquirer,	Cincinnati,	Daily.
Congressional Record,	Washington,	Daily.
Consular Reports of the U. S.,	Washington,	Monthly.
Contemporary Review,	London,	Monthly.
Co-Operative Index to Periodicals,	New York,	Annual.
Critic,	New York,	Weekly.
Cosmopolitan,	New York,	Monthly.
Denver Republican,	Denver,	Daily.
Dial,	Chicago,	Monthly.
Edinburgh Review,	London,	Quarterly.
Education,	Boston,	Monthly.
Educational Review,	New York,	Monthly.
Electrical World,	New York,	Weekly.
Engineer,	London,	Weekly.
Engineering,	London,	Weekly.
Engineering News,	New York,	Weekly.
English Illustrated Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.
English Notes and Queries,	London,	Weekly.
Etude,	New York,	Monthly.
Far and Near,	New York,	Monthly.
Figaro,	Paris,	Weekly.
Forest and Stream,	New York,	Weekly.
Fortnightly Review,	London,	Monthly.
Forum.	New York,	Monthly.
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly.	New York,	Weekly.
Garden and Forest,	New York,	Weekly.

Gartenlaube Die,	Liepzig,	Weekly,
Harper's Bazar,	New York,	Weekly.
Harper's Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.
Harper's Weekly,	New York,	Weekly.
Harper's Young People,	New York,	Weekly.
Hickcox Monthly Catalogue of United States Publications,	Washington,	Monthly.
Illustrated London News,	London,	Weekly.
Irish World,	New York,	Weekly.
Irrigation Age The,	Denver,	Fortnightly.
Johns Hopkins University Studies,	Baltimore,	Monthly.
Journal of American Folk-Lore,	Boston,	Quarterly.
Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry,	London,	Monthly.
Journal of United Labor,	Philadelphia,	Weekly.
Kansas City Journal,	Kansas City,	Daily.
Kindergarten,	Chicago,	Monthly.
Library Journal,	New York,	Monthly.
Life,	New York,	Weekly.
Lippincott's Magazine,	Philadelphia,	Monthly.
Literary News,	New York,	Monthly.
Literary World,	Boston,	Fortnightly.
Littell's Living Age,	Boston,	Weekly.
London Graphic,	London,	Weekly.
London Times,	London,	Weekly.
Magazine of American History,	New York,	Monthly.
Medical Record,	New York,	Weekly.
Midland,	Omaha,	Weekly.
Musical Courier,	New York,	Weekly.
Nation,	New York,	Weekly.
National Car and Locomotive Builder,	New York,	Monthly.
National Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.
Nature,	London,	Weekly.
Nebraska Tribune, (German)	Omaha,	Weekly.
Nebraska State Journal,	Lincoln,	Daily.
New England Magazine,	Boston,	Monthly.
New Orleans Times-Democrat,	New Orleans,	Weekly.
New World,	Boston,	Quarterly.
New York Freeman's Journal,	New York,	Weekly.
New York Tribune,	New York,	Daily.
New York World,	New York,	Daily.
Nineteenth Century,	London,	Monthly.
North American Review,	New York,	Monthly.
Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office,	Washington,	Weekly.
Omaha Bee,	Omaha,	Daily.

Omaha Clinic,	Omaha,	Monthly.
Omaha Excelsior,	Omaha,	Weekly.
Omaha World-Herald,	Omaha,	Daily.
Outing,	New York,	Monthly.
Overland Monthly,	San Francisco,	Monthly.
Philadelphia Times,	Philadelphia,	Daily.
Philosophical Review,	Boston,	Bi-Monthly.
Political Science Quarterly,	New York,	Quarterly.
Popular Science Monthly,	New York,	Monthly.
Portfolio,	London,	Monthly.
Public Opinion,	Washington,	Weekly.
Publisher's Weekly,	New York,	Weekly.
Quarterly Journal of Economics,	Boston,	Quarterly.
Quarterly Review,	London,	Quarterly.
Railroad and Engineering Journal,	New York,	Monthly.
Revue Des Deux Mondes,	Paris,	Fortnightly.
St. Louis Globe-Democrat,	St. Louis,	Daily.
St. Nicholas,	New York,	Monthly.
San Francisco Chronicle,	San Francisco,	Daily.
Saturday Review,	London,	Weekly.
Science,	Cambridge,	Weekly.
Scientific American,	New York,	Weekly.
Scientific American Supplement,	New York,	Weekly.
Scribner's Magazine,	New York,	Monthly.
Sunday Magazine,	London,	Monthly.
Ueber Land und Meer,	Stuttgart,	Weekly.
University Extension Journal,	London,	Fortnightly.
Washington Star,	Washington,	Weekly.
Western Electrician,	Chicago,	Weekly.
Westminster Review,	London,	Monthly.
Wide Awake,	Boston,	Monthly.
Youth's Companion,	Boston,	Weekly.

STATE OF NEBRASKA, }
DOUGLAS COUNTY. } ss.

Lewis S. Reed, President of the Board of Directors, of the Omaha Public Library, being duly sworn, says that the foregoing report is true and correct as he verily believes.

LEWIS S. REED.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 28th day of June, A. D. 1892.

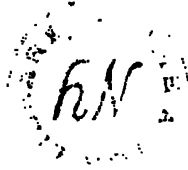
HARRY D. REED.

Notary Public.

{ NOTARIAL }
{ SEAL. }







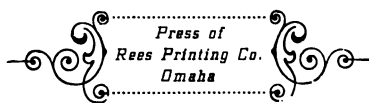
OMAHA
PUBLIC · LIBRARY.
ANNUAL REPORT
1893.



SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1893.



OMAHA:
PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS,
1518 FARNAM STREET,
PAXTON BLOCK. *jm*



OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

PRESIDENT:

LEWIS S. REED.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

WILLIAM WALLACE.

SECRETARY:

W. S. CURTIS.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

ELIZABETH E. POPPLETON,

ELIJAH DUNN,

WILLIAM S. CURTIS,

WILLIAM WALLACE,

P. L. PERINE,

LEWIS S. REED,

CLAIRE RUSTIN MCINTOSH,

FRANK L. HALLER,

THOS. K. SUDBOROUGH.

COMMITTEES:

Executive—Directors WALLACE, DUNN and SUDBOROUGH.

Book—Directors E. E. POPPLETON, MCINTOSH, CURTIS and PERINE.

LIBRARY SERVICE.

LIBRARIAN:

JESSIE ALLAN.

ASSISTANTS:

MARGARET A. O'BRIEN,

BLANCHE A. ALLAN.

EDITH TOHITT,

THEODORA M. BURSTALL.

MARY DEVITTE,

CORA McCANDLISH,

ANNETTE SMILEY.



THE ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Honorable the Mayor and City Council of the City of Omaha :

The Directors of the Omaha Public Library submit herewith their Sixteenth Annual Report, showing the condition of their trust on the first day of June, 1893.

The reports of the Secretary and Librarian, made a part of this report, contain the statistical information as to the condition of the Library.

It will be noted that the amount expended in the purchase of books is materially less than the previous year, but the usefulness of the Library seems not to have been seriously lessened thereby, for the year's record shows an increase over previous years in the circulation of books.

The necessary economy in purchases, owing to payment for land occupied by the Library building, will cease after the current year, as there remains but the sum of \$4,000.00 and interest thereon yet to be paid.

The amount expended for services of librarian and assistants does not show a material increase. The decrease in the item of rent paid is to be attributed to the very favorable proposition of the Hon. Wm. A. Paxton, to allow the use of the rooms now occupied at a low rental until January 1, 1894, by which time it is hoped the new building will be ready.

In December, 1892, the Board began preparations for removal to quarters in the City Hall, but the expense of removal promised to about equal the rent, to say nothing of inconvenience to the public owing to the enforced closing of the Library for some days; so it was determined to remain where we are.

The members of the Board look forward with pleasure to the prospect of issuing the next annual report from a new, beautiful and permanent home.

Respectfully submitted,

By order of the Board,

LEWIS S. REED,
President.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

To the President of the Omaha Public Library Board:

SIR:—The following is a statement of the moneys expended on account of the Omaha Public Library and Reading Rooms for the year ending May 31, 1893, including payments upon the Library lot and building:

BOOK ACCOUNT.

For books purchased and freight	\$ 4,490 33	
Periodicals and newspapers	682 01	
Binding	1,258 63	
Insurance.....	208 50	
	<hr/>	\$ 6,639 47

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Rent.....	\$ 1,450 02	
Electric lighting.	572 21	
Furniture and improvements.....	128 21	
Janitor service.....	347 41	
Payments on the Library lot.....	9,400 00	
Payments on the Library building.....	24,708 28	
	<hr/>	36,606 13.

SALARY ACCOUNT.

Librarian and assistants.	5,234 45
--------------------------------	----------

SUPPLY ACCOUNT.

Printing, stationery, postage, etc.	\$ 301 76	
Ice, matches, brooms, etc.....	25 42.	
Miscellaneous.....	25 75	
	<hr/>	352 93

Total.....	\$48,832 98
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Very respectfully,

WM. S. CURTIS,
Secretary.

Omaha, June 9, 1893.

EXPENDITURES OF FORMER YEARS.

	BOOK ACCOUNT	BUILDING ACCOUNT	SALARY ACCOUNT	SUPPLY ACCOUNT	TOTAL
For fractional year ending June 1st, 1878.....	\$ 186 93	\$ 627 48	\$ 375 25	\$ 54 80	\$1244 46
For year ending June 1st, 1879.....	1342 95	467 95	563 15	94 90	2468 95
" " 1880.....	1283 98	446 77	676 00	137 45	2544 20
" " 1881.....	1047 28	812 56	755 00	84 00	2698 84
" " 1882.....	1432 38	775 46	920 00	127 55	3255 39
" " 1883.....	1903 83	860 81	1080 00	121 80	3966 44
" " 1884.....	2041 02	1446 83	1260 00	125 65	4873 50
" " 1885.....	4495 22	1586 36	1789 20	507 85	8378 63
" " 1886.....	3805 56	1867 85	2142 26	257 99	8073 66
" " 1887.....	4616 37	2006 91	2522 05	353 52	9498 85
" " 1888.....	4283 32	3739 90	4761 83	1140 93	13925 98
" " 1889.....	5656 28	3353 97	3153 99	352 64	12516 88
" " 1890.....	7641 99	3513 45	3572 50	607 33	15335 27
" " 1891.....	12492 47	3633 94	4240 73	604 59	20971 73
" " 1892.....	8979 43	9555 47	5209 63	488 68	24233 21
" " 1893.....	6639 47	3606 13	5234 45	352 93	48832 98

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, June 1, 1893.

To the Board of Directors Omaha Public Library:

The Sixteenth Annual Report of the Librarian of the Omaha Public Library, giving the condition and-work for the year ending May 31, 1893, is herewith submitted:

BOOKS.

There have been entered in the accession catalogue, to date, 42,332 volumes, 3,858 of which are this year's additions. The number purchased is 2,448, being about one-half the number bought each year for the last three years.

By purchasing a few missing numbers, the periodicals used in the reading room have furnished 219 volumes of permanent value.

The gifts of the year are greater by fifty per cent than any previous year in the history of the Library. Through the courtesy of Senator Manderson, we have received from Washington, 939 volumes. These have not only assisted in bringing our official set of government reports toward completion, but have brought up to date Archæological, Ethnological, Geographical, Geological and Smithsonian Institution reports. To any one familiar with these documents, it is unnecessary to speak of their value.

Governor Boyd forwarded 37 volumes of territorial and early state reports; W. J. Broatch 67, and W. J. Connell 52 volumes of miscellaneous government-publications.

By request of Hon. A. J. Poppleton, Mr. Thomas S. Wright, general attorney of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company, has had prepared and forwarded to the library two volumes containing the "Record and Arguments of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company vs. The Union Pacific Railway Company." These volumes, in addition to their legal value, form a valuable contribution to the Union Pacific collection obtained from the library of the late O. F. Davis.

A full list of the donors of books, pamphlets and numbers may be found appended to this report.

The number of books discarded as worn out is 974. While this number may be partly excused by the fact of fewer accessions

in the popular classes, and the consequent extra use, it is due, in the main, to the cheap work of the publishers. Ordinary wear and tear will not cause a well sewed book to fall to pieces before it has been in the hands of the public six months. The remedy rests with the publishing houses and until they prepare editions for libraries, or have the books for the trade better sewed, we can do nothing but send our books to be re-bound before the leaves are fairly soiled.

The number of books lost is 9.

In this connection, we are obliged to report the loss of 453 volumes destroyed by fire at the Omaha Printing Company bindery. While the claim of the library was allowed, and most of the items have been replaced, the disaster is none the less to be regretted.

Of books worn out in previous years, 610 volumes have been sent to different points, including Benson, Elkhorn, Newman Grove, and St. Edwards in this state, Otis, Colorado, the Indian schools of western Kansas, and Forts Niobrara and Washakie.

At this point it may be interesting to note the number of copies of a few of the more popular books. Little Women leads with 41, Little Lord Fauntleroy, 33; Little Men, 32; Ben Hur, 26; Uncle Tom's Cabin, 18; David Copperfield, House of the Seven Gables, Ivanhoe, John Halifax, Nicholas Nickleby, Notre Dame, Scarlet Letter, Vanity Fair, 10 or more each.

The following table furnishes statistics of the number of new books added, the number worn out, and the number (including duplicates) at present available in each department:

	Added	Discarded	Total
Ancient Classics	4	.....	324
Biography	112	4	2476
Essays and Miscellaneous	143	.....	1956
Fiction, Adult	192	585	5797
Fiction, Juvenile	48	330	2530
Fine Arts	92	.....	710
History	164	21	3973
Language and Education	47	1	417
Law	43	.....	237
Medicine and Hygiene	38	.....	498
Natural History	67	2	1017
Natural Science	58	2	811
Periodicals	223	7	3600
Philosophy	21	1	313
Poetry and Drama	62	1	1525

	Added	Discarded	Total
Political and Social Science.....	139	1	934
Public Documents (unclassified)	997	.....	2067
Reference Books.....	52	.....	1676
Religion and Theology	37	1	1155
Travels and Description	109	13	1514
Useful and Recreative Arts	186	5	1356
Duplicates in all Classes	1024	.....	.....
	3858	974	34886

The number given in the last column does not indicate the total number of volumes in the library. It represents books on the shelves or at the bindery. In addition there are several hundred volumes at present in the store room, consisting of duplicates not at present in demand, unbound volumes of periodicals, reports and transactions of societies.

CIRCULATION.

The circulating department has been open 304 days, 52 Sundays and 9 legal holidays being deducted. For home reading there were 190,734 books issued, an average of 625 a day.

No book is limited to seven days. All, new and old, are issued for fourteen days, with the privilege of renewal for the same period. Current numbers of magazines are limited to seven days.

From reports for the year ending December 31, 1892, or later, the following statement has been compiled, showing the home use with reference to population:

Milwaukee gives a book to every .7 inhabitant; Providence, .7; Baltimore, 1.0; Cleveland, 1.1; St. Paul, 1.1; Indianapolis, 1.3; Omaha, 1.4; Detroit, 1.5; Newark, 1.5; Jersey City, 2.1; Minneapolis, 2.02.

The cost per volume for home circulation, salaries alone being the basis—Omaha, .027; St. Paul, .036. Detroit, .045; Newark, .053; Minneapolis, .061; Milwaukee, .062.

In March, as an experiment only, a delivery station was established at the corner of Military Avenue and Burdette Street. This is one block from the city limit and nearly three miles from the Library. Thirteen trips have been made, one each week, and 668 volumes delivered, at a cost of one-half cent per volume. It is suggested that two stations be established in October, one in the extreme southeastern, the other in the southwestern part of the city.

The following table shows the number of books drawn for home reading during the year, also the daily average as compared with the preceding year:

Month	1891-2			1892-3		
	Days	Circ'l'n	Average	Days	Circ'l'n	Average
June	26	12619	485	26	14266	548
July	26	13099	504	25	14055	562
August	26	13927	525	27	15082	559
September	25	12489	500	26	13177	507
October	27	14399	533	25	13957	558
November	24	14487	604	25	15148	606
December	26	17336	667	25	15195	608
January	26	18065	695	25	17665	707
February	24	19034	793	23	18086	786
March	27	20090	744	27	20105	745
April	25	17425	697	24	17459	727
May	25	16037	641	26	16517	635

The character of the books drawn for home use is shown by the following statement:

	1890-1	1891-2	1892-3.
Prose Fiction (adult).....	53.1	50.1	48.4
Prose Fiction (juvenile)	22.8	21.6	22.3
Poetry and Drama	1.5	1.6	1.8
General Literature.....	4.7	6.2	4.3
Ancient Classics .....	.2	.3	.3
Biography	2.5	2.7	2.5
History	4.7	5.6	5.2
Travels and Description	3.2	3.9	3.5
Natural History and Natural Science.....	1.6	1.7	2.
Useful and Fine Arts	2.4	2.7	3.
Medicine and Hygiene.....	.6	.7	.7
Philosophy .....	.3	.3	.4
Language and Education .....	.6	.6	.8
Political and Social Science and Law.....	.9	1.	1.2
Religion and Theology .....	.9	1.	1.1
Current Periodicals .....	....	....	2.5

REFERENCE ROOM.

The Reference Room has been open 356 days during the year. A few books have been added. This room is without an attendant, the books being on open shelves. The use seems to be the same as that of last year, when a careful estimate placed the number at 40,150. In addition to the reference books, 40,562 volumes have been taken on reading room slips. Assuming that each person used but one reference book, the total library use of

books during the year was 80,712. No record has been attempted of the books used by book-borrowers having direct access to the shelves of the circulating department. This number is constantly growing, very little inconvenience having resulted. Some one has said that the record of a library expressed in figures is about two-thirds the actual use. The satisfaction of the book-borrowers more than compensates for the loss of a few numbers as given in statistical tables.

READING ROOM.

The Reading Room has an average attendance of 310 a day, a total of 110,362. It is supplied with 148 different periodicals, received as follows:—19 daily, 50 weekly, 5 fortnightly, 59 monthly, 2 bi-monthly, 12 quarterly, and 1 annually.

In addition to the use of the daily and weekly periodicals on the racks and tables, 12,423 magazines have been given out for use in this room.

BOOK BORROWERS.

The total number of registrations and re-registrations to date is 25,919. Cards issued during the year numbered 3,581; 1802 to women, 1779 to men.

Delinquent book-borrowers are notified by postal card the morning after the book is due, 7,500 such notices having been sent. Guarantors are notified on the eighth day after the delinquency has occurred. These numbered 131.

Work has been begun on the new finding list. The collection of pamphlets has been partially classified. Several thousand clippings have been mounted. Studies in design are being collected, and it is the intention to mount them if possible during the summer. Even before these collections have been made known to the public, their use is not infrequent.

SUMMARY.

Total number of volumes.....	42,332
Number added during the year.....	3,858
Book borrower's cards issued during the year.....	3,581

CIRCULATION.

For home use.....	190,734
For library use.....	40,562
Reference books (estimated).....	40,150
Magazines.....	12,423
Reading room (estimated).....	110,360
Total.....	394,229

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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RECEIPTS.

From fines.....	\$795 85	
From subscriptions.....	18 50	
From the sale of catalogues.....	19 00	
Books destroyed — Omaha Printing Company bindery.....	257 26	
Deposits.....	202 85	\$1,293 46
Paid city treasurer.....	1,090 61	
Deposits refunded.....	180 85	\$1,271 46
Amount on hand.....		\$22 00

Respectfully submitted,

JESSIE ALLAN,

Librarian.

		ACCESSIONS	HOME CIRCULATION	CARDS ISSUED	FINES, ETC.
For the year ending May 31, 1879		.....	34476	992	\$ 223 65
" " 1880		886	41238	760	283 25
" " 1881		852	36202	787	263 80
" " 1882		1170	44610	904	326 00
" " 1883		1415	54600	1162	376 00
" " 1884		1184	57204	1198	379 05
" " 1885		2225	60907	1167	438 35
" " 1886		1898	80090	2025	526 35
" " 1887		2613	90341	2119	639 90
" " 1888		2327	95488	2293	658 40
" " 1889		3805	124501	3303	824 40
" " 1890		4668	145601	3026	1073 40
" " 1891		6004	162702	3757	1161 90
" " 1892		4828	189007	4765	961 00
" " 1893		3858	190734	3580	1090 61

APPENDIX "A."

LIST OF DONORS.

	Vol- umes	Pamph- lets	Num- bers.
Allan Mrs J T	I	22	11
Allan Jessie	I	....	....
American Metrological Association .....	....	I	....
Ames Free Library .....	....	I	....
Astor Library .....	....	I	....
Balch E S	I	....	....
Bolton C E .....	....	I	....
Boston Public Library .....	....	I	....
Boyd Hon J E	37	....	....
Bradford Academy .....	....	I	....
Brett W H .....	....	I	....
Broatch W J	67	....	....
Brockton Public Library .....	....	I	....
Bronson Library .....	....	2	....
Brooklyn Library .....	....	I	....
Canada, Royal Society of	I	....	....
Catlen W W	I	....	....
Chase C Clement	I	....	....
Chicago Public Library .....	....	3	....
Chicago University .....	....	2	....
Chicago, Rock Island Railway Co	2	....	....
Cincinnati Public Library .....	....	2	....
Cincinnati, University of .....	....	I	....
Clarke Robert .....	....	I	....
Connell W J	52	....	....
Cooper Blanche	I	....	....
Council Bluffs (Ia.) Public Library .....	....	I	....
Creighton College .....	....	I	....
Crounse Hon L .....	....	2	....
Crunden F M .....	....	I	....
Denver Mercantile Library .....	....	I	....
Denver Public Library .....	....	3	6
Denver Real Estate and Stock Exchange .....	....	I	....
Des Moines Public Library	I	I	....
Detroit Public Library .....	....	3	....
Dover (N. H.) Public Library .....	....	I	....
Enoch Pratt Free Library .....	....	I	....
Fletcher Free Library (Burlington, Vt.) .....	....	I	....
Folger Mrs M L	5	....	....
Goodman C F .....	....	....	4

	Vol- umes	Pamph- lets	Num- bers
Harvard University	1	2	....
Indianapolis Public Library .....	....	1	....
Iowa State Agricultural College .....	....	2	....
Jackson J H .....	....	1	....
Jersey City Public Library .....	....	2	6
Kansas State Historical Society .....	....	1	....
Lawrence (Mass.) Public Library .....	....	1	....
Leach E O	1	....	....
Lehmer J R	2	....	65
Leland Stanford Jr University .....	....	6	....
Los Angeles Public Library .....	....	3	....
Lowell (Mass.) Public Library .....	....	2	....
Lynn (Mass.) Public Library .....	....	1	....
Macdonald A .....	....	1	....
Milwaukee Public Library .....	....	1	....
Minneapolis Public Library	1	5	....
Morse Institute, (Natick, Mass) .....	....	1	....
Nebraska State Board of Agriculture	3	....	....
Nebraska State Historical Society	2	....	....
Nebraska State Horticultural Society	1	....	....
Nebraska University .....	....	31	....
Newark Free Public Library .....	....	1	....
Newberry Library .....	....	1	....
New York University .....	....	1	....
Notson Mrs Ida R	20	....	....
Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society	1	....	....
Olsen Theo, City Comptroller	6	....	....
Omaha National Bank	21	....	....
Patterson (N. J.) Public Library .....	....	1	....
Peabody Institute, (Baltimore) .....	....	2	....
Peattie R B	1	....	....
Peele W A Jr	1	....	....
Perine P L .....	....	1	....
Philadelphia Academy of Sciences .....	....	1	....
Philadelphia Apprentices' Library .....	....	1	....
Philadelphia Library Company .....	....	1	....
Pope A A .....	....	1	....
Pratt Institute .....	....	1	....
Providence (R. I.) Public Library .....	....	1	....
Quinn John .....	....	1	....
Reyer Edw .....	....	1	....
Rosewater Andrew, City Engineer .....	....	2	....
Savage Mrs Lucy .....	....	1	....
Sawin J M	6
Scranton Public Library	1	1
Scribner's Sons	1

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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	Vol- umes	Pamph- lets	Num- bers
Springfield (Mass.) Public Library	1
St. Louis Mercantile Library.....	1
St. Louis Public Library.....	.....	5	.....
St. Paul (Minn.) Public Library .....	.....	2	.....
Stone R M	12	.....	.....
Taunton Public Library .....	.....	2	.....
Tomlinson Mrs F .....	.....	1	.....
Toronto Public Library.....	.....	1	.....
Tuft's Library (Weymouth, Mass.) .....	.....	2	.....
Union Pacific Railway Passenger Department .....	.....	15	.....
Unknown	2	.....	.....
Wallace J L	3	.....	34
Wallace Mrs Wm.....	.....	.....	80
Warder Public Library, Springfield, Ohio.....	.....	1	.....
Washington, D. C. Various Departments.....	939	218	.....
Wilkinson Dr G E	2	.....	.....
Wilmington (Del.) Institute.....	.....	1	.....
Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction .....	.....	1	.....
Worcester Free Public Library.....	.....	1	24
Yale College .....	.....	1	.....

APPENDIX "B."

LIST OF PERIODICALS CURRENTLY RECEIVED.

American Anthropologist	Washington....	Quarterly
American Architect and Building News.....	Boston	Weekly
American Art Printer.....	New York	Monthly
American Builder and Wood-Worker.....	New York.....	Monthly
American Chemical Journal	Baltimore	Monthly
American Gardening.	New York.....	Monthly
American Journal of Archaeology.....	Boston.....	Quarterly
American Journal of Obstetrics.....	New York.....	Monthly
American Journal of Philology.....	Baltimore	Quarterly
American Journal of Psychology.....	Worcester.....	Quarterly
American Machinist.....	New York.....	Weekly
American Naturalist.....	Philadelphia	Monthly
American Notes and Queries.....	Philadelphia....	Weekly
Andover Review.....	Boston.....	Monthly
Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.....	Philadelphia	Bi-Monthly
Architect.....	London.....	Weekly
Architectural Review.....	Boston	Monthly
Arena, The.....	New York.....	Monthly
Army and Navy Journal	New York	Weekly
Art Amateur.....	New York.....	Monthly
Art Interchange.....	New York.....	Monthly
Art, L'.....	Paris.....	Fortnightly
Astronomy and Astro Physics.....	Northfield....	Monthly
Athenæum.....	London	Weekly
Atlanta Constitution.....	Atlanta	Weekly
Atlantic Monthly.....	Boston	Monthly
Black and White.....	London.....	Weekly
Blackwood's Magazine.....	Edinburgh.....	Monthly
Book Buyer.....	New York.....	Monthly
Book Chat.....	New York.....	Monthly
Boston Advertiser.....	Boston.....	Daily
Boston Public Library Bulletin.....	Boston.....	Quarterly
British Medical Journal.....	London	Weekly
Cassell's Magazine of Art.....	London.....	Monthly
Century Magazine.....	New York.....	Monthly
Chautauquan.....	Meadville, Pa. .	Monthly
Chemical News.....	London.....	Weekly
Chicago Herald.....	Chicago.....	Daily
Chicago Tribune.....	Chicago.....	Daily

Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette.....	Cincinnati.....	Daily
Congressional Record.....	Washington.....	Daily
Consular Reports.....	Washington.....	Monthly
Contemporary Review.....	London.....	Monthly
Co-operative Index to Periodicals.....	New York.....	Annual
Cosmopolitan.....	New York.....	Monthly
Critic.....	New York.....	Weekly
Decorator and Furnisher.....	New York.....	Monthly
Denver Republican.....	Denver.....	Daily
Dial.....	Chicago.....	Monthly
Edinburgh Review.....	London.....	Quarterly
Education.....	Boston.....	Monthly
Educational Review.....	New York.....	Monthly
Electrical World.....	New York.....	Weekly
Engineer.....	London.....	Weekly
Engineering.....	London.....	Weekly
Engineering News.....	New York.....	Weekly
English Illustrated Magazine.....	New York.....	Monthly
English Notes and Queries.....	London.....	Weekly
Etude.....	New York.....	Monthly
Far and Near.....	New York.....	Monthly
Figaro.....	Paris.....	Weekly
Forest and Stream.....	New York.....	Weekly
Fortnightly Review.....	London.....	Monthly
Forum.....	New York.....	Monthly
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly.....	New York.....	Weekly
Garden and Forest.....	New York.....	Weekly
Gartenlaube, Die.....	Leipzig.....	Weekly
Goldthwaite's Geographical Magazine.....	New York.....	Monthly
Harper's Bazar.....	New York.....	Weekly
Harper's Magazine.....	New York.....	Monthly
Harper's Weekly.....	New York.....	Weekly
Harper's Young People.....	New York.....	Weekly
Harvard Graduate's Magazine.....	Boston.....	Quarterly
Hickcox Monthly Catalogue of United States Publications.....	Washington.....	Monthly
Illustrated London News.....	London.....	Weekly
Irrigation Age, The.....	Denver.....	Fortnightly
Johns Hopkins University Studies.....	Baltimore.....	Monthly
Journal of American Folk-Lore.....	Boston.....	Quarterly
Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry.....	London.....	Monthly
Journal of United Labor.....	Philadelphia.....	Weekly
Kansas City Journal.....	Kansas City.....	Daily
Kindergarten.....	Chicago.....	Monthly
Kölnische Zeitung.....	Cologne.....	Weekly
Ladies' Home Journal.....	Philadelphia.....	Monthly
Library Journal.....	New York.....	Monthly

Life	New York	Weekly
Lippincott's Magazine	Philadelphia	Monthly
Literary News	New York	Monthly
Literary World	Boston	Fortnightly
Littell's Living Age	Boston	Weekly
London Graphic	London	Weekly
London Times	London	Weekly
Louisville Courier-Journal	Louisville	Daily
Magazine of American History	New York	Monthly
Medical Record	New York	Weekly
Musical Courier	New York	Weekly
Nation	New York	Weekly
National Car and Locomotive Builder	New York	Monthly
National Magazine	New York	Monthly
Nature	London	Weekly
Nebraska Tribune (German)	Omaha	Weekly
Nebraska State Journal	Lincoln	Daily
New England Magazine	Boston	Monthly
New Orleans Times-Democrat	New Orleans	Weekly
New World	New York	Quarterly
New York Tribune	New York	Daily
New York World	New York	Daily
Nineteenth Century	London	Monthly
North American Review	New York	Monthly
Official Gazette of the U. S. Patent Office	Washington	Weekly
Omaha Bee (Morning Edition)	Omaha	Daily
Omaha Bee (Evening Edition)	Omaha	Daily
Omaha Clinic	Omaha	Monthly
Omaha Excelsior	Omaha	Weekly
Omaha World-Herald (Morning Edition)	Omaha	Daily
Omaha World-Herald (Evening Edition)	Omaha	Daily
Outing	New York	Monthly
Overland Monthly	San Francisco	Monthly
Philadelphia Times	Philadelphia	Daily
Philosophical Review	Boston	Bi-Monthly
Political Science Quarterly	New York	Quarterly
Popular Science Monthly	New York	Monthly
Portfolio	London	Monthly
Portland (Oregon) Oregonian	Portland	Daily
Public Opinion	Washington	Weekly
Publishers Weekly	New York	Weekly
Quarterly Journal of Economics	Boston	Quarterly
Quarterly Review	London	Quarterly
Railroad and Engineering Journal	New York	Monthly
Review of Reviews	London	Monthly
Revue des deux Mondes	Paris	Fortnightly
St. Louis Globe-Democrat	St. Louis	Daily

St. Nicholas	New York	Monthly
San Francisco Chronicle	San Francisco ..	Daily
Saturday Review	London	Weekly
Science	Cambridge	Weekly
Scientific American	New York	Weekly
Scientific American Supplement	New York	Weekly
Scribner's Magazine	New York	Monthly
Sunday Magazine	London	Monthly
Ueber Land und Meer	Stuttgart	Weekly
University Extension Journal	London	Fortnightly.
Washington Star	Washington	Weekly
Western Electrician	Chicago	Weekly
Westminster Review	London	Monthly
Wide Awake	Boston	Monthly
World's Columbian Exposition Illustrated	Chicago	Monthly
Youth's Companion	Boston	Weekly

THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, }
DOUGLAS COUNTY. } ss.

Lewis S. Reed, President of the Board of Directors of the Omaha Public Library, being duly sworn, says that the foregoing report is true as he verily believes.

LEWIS S. REED.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 24th day of June,
A. D. 1893.

W. H. S. HUGHES,
Notary Public.



